

Second Intifada in the offing? Palestinians battle Israeli soldiers to protest tunnel excavation

Combined News Reports
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Palestinian demonstrators clashed with Israeli troops and police in occupied East Jerusalem for a second day, Wednesday. The violence spread to several West Bank cities, in protests against an Israeli project in Jerusalem's walled old city. Early reports said four Palestinians were killed and at least 300 injured during the clashes. In clashes with the Israeli army in Ramallah two Palestinian police officers were killed and about 165 injured.

Angry Palestinians threw stones and bottles at Israeli police in East Jerusalem and other Palestinian towns to protest Israel's opening of a controversial tunnel near several of the holiest sites in this disputed city a day earlier.

Israeli police retaliated by firing at demonstrators killing at least one Palestinian and injuring dozens, according to Palestinian radio.

The sight of Palestinians throwing stones at Israeli army and police fueled Israeli fears that a second Palestinian Intifada was about to be unleashed.

Palestinians were responding to Yasser Arafat's call for a

day of demonstrations in response to Israel's surprise pre-dawn excavation Tuesday to complete a long-disputed tunnel below the edge of the Al Aqsa mosque and the Temple Mount, a site sacred to Muslims and Jews alike. Arab leaders reacted in outrage, and stone-throwing Palestinian youths battled police through much of the day Tuesday, briefly driving Jewish worshippers from the Western Wall.

An angry Arafat, speaking at a graduation in the Gaza Strip Tuesday, condemned the tunnel project as a "crime against (Islamic) religious and holy places" and said it violated the spirit of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"We feel this is a direct affront to both Christian and Muslim holy places, and to Palestinian rights," member of the Palestine National Authority Dr. Hanan Ashrawi told reporters Wednesday.

But Israeli mayor of the city, Ehud Olmert, was defiant.

"This is our city. It is a united city, and we are exercising the natural authorities of the government in such a city," he said.

The Jerusalem issue is perhaps the most sensitive in the

Israeli-Palestinian dispute. Palestinians demonstrated that fact Wednesday by confronting Israeli troops for many hours in several parts of Jerusalem, and in at least three west bank cities.

Shopkeepers in East Jerusalem quickly shuttered their stores observing a call by Islamic leaders to remain closed until noon Wednesday.

Still, the incidents, reminiscent of the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, underscored current tensions between the two sides. And they illustrated the ease with which political confrontation here can flare into violence, particularly in Jerusalem, the city at the heart of the conflict.

The tunnel, which traces an

ancient roadway, stretches 500 yards beside the Western Wall, and alongside the compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Arabs as Haram al Sharif, the Noble Sanctuary. The compound houses two mosques, the Dome of the Rock, and Al Aqsa, the third holiest site to Muslims.

Palestinians say they fear that the tunnel could undermine the foundations of the mosques and other buildings nearby and provide an easy target to extremists who might wish to damage the Islamic holy places.

But several also said the decision to open the tunnel, made by the previous government but put in force under the hard-line administration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was an important

symbol, intended to assert Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

Adnan Hussein, executive director of the Waqf, the Muslim religious council that administers the Old City's Islamic sites, said the tunnel's excavation was in line with the new government's recent actions to expand settlements on the West Bank and confiscate land from Palestinians in east Jerusalem.

Israeli opposition leaders endorsed that view, and Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, a Likud moderate, said it was foolish of Netanyahu to force the issue of the Temple Mount before withdrawing Israel's army from most of Hebron, as required by treaty six months

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ABOARD MIR-22 SPACE STATION: Astronaut Terrence W. Wilcutt, pilot of the space shuttle Atlantis, floats in the Mir Core, Sept. 21, during day 6 of STS-79 mission. UPI

Government and opposition Door remains open for dialogue despite tension

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer

AFTER A month of riding high in the battlefield seeking to oust the government, the opposition camp received a fierce counter-strike. It was launched by the Prime Minister, Abdel Karim Al Kabarti, on Monday. (See related story on page 2).

Coming out of the darkness, Mr. Kabarti fired on all fronts, local and Arab ones. The Prime Minister was clearly irked, described his opponents as "people in crises," who based their policies on "attacking the peace treaty." The opposition is "creating problems, and do not want to solve it."

The opposition "has the diagnosis but lacks the treatment," he added that "there is poverty and there is unemployment" but "it is possible, for the government to solve these problems within the current available potentials in the country." He asked the opposition to provide alternatives to the government policies. "I am calling upon the opposition: give me your options. Where are the options that the opposition presented?"

Kabarti asked for coherence and solutions to deal with problems of the country.

Observers are terming the relations between the government and opposition as a political crisis that is becoming more complicated with tensions rapidly escalating. They point out that both the government and opposition are responsible for the "no-solution" status in the country.

The strain reached its height when the authorities arrested the editor-in-chief of Al Sabeel weekly newspaper Hilmi Al Asmar who is a member of the Shura Council of the Islamic Action Front (IAF). He was arrested last week after his paper ran a front page story describing details of the alleged torture of a Hamas sympathizer who was detained in Jordan.

The Prime Minister strongly denied Al Sabeel's report, and defended the security institution's against the allegations of human

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Les Tchétchènes solidaires entre la Jordanie et Grozny

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Father of two children confesses to their murder

AMMAN (Star)—The father of the two children who were poisoned to death two weeks ago has confessed to their murder Wednesday closing the chapter on one of the most shocking murder cases in Jordan in recent years.

The father of Haneen, 9, and Hani, 6, Al Masri confessed to giving his children one cyanide tablet each on the morning of the murder. He said he bought the lethal tablets when he was in Canada recently.

Public Security Director Gen. Nasouh Muheiddin said the father, M. Al Masri, of the two children had confessed to the murder before Public Attorney Mr. Fathi Rifai and Criminal Court Public Prosecutor Mr. Abdel Aziz Al Rawashdeh. He said the motive behind this heinous crime appeared to be related to domestic conflicts between the accused and his wife.

The Star has learned that investigators became suspicious of the father after they discovered discrepancies in his account of that morning's events. While he claimed he left with his wife at 6:45 in the morning of Wednesday 11 September, his wife, who

drove him to work each morning before returning to her children, said he went back to the apartment saying that he had to use the bathroom.

The mother later revealed that her husband had attempted to kill his children once before. She told investigators that a month and half ago she woke up at night by the smell of gas and discovered that the gas bottle was moved into the children's bedroom while the father was sitting in the living room.

Police focused their attention on the father after excluding forced entry into the apartment by an intruder. The fact that post mortem has confirmed that the poisonous material was in fact cyanide, a substance that was not easily available in Jordan, excluded the possibility that the children may have had access to it.

It is not clear what drove the father to commit this terrible crime which caught public attention since day one. But police will now try to construct a psychological profile of the father to determine what could have driven him to commit the murders.

He is to be formally charged this week. ■

Ordinary session to be delayed while deputies try to put their House in order

By Hamdan Al Halli

Special to The Star

THE LATEST resignations of deputies from the Lower House, of Parliament, put the House at a crucial junction. Informed sources told The Star that the latest developments add to the possibility of postponing the ordinary session of Parliament, which was scheduled to be held on first October.

But sources now predict that His Majesty King Hussein will delay the convening of Parliament for the full two months allowed under the Constitution. During this period there will be attempts to relax strained relations between the government and the Lower House. That tension was behind the sudden termination of the last extraordinary session.

However, Prime Minister Mr. Abdel Karim Kabarti has earlier assured the Speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses, Ahmed Al Lawzi and Se'ad Hayel Al Sroor, that the ordinary session will be held on its Constitutional date.

But observers believe the deputies have themselves to blame for the latest internal crisis. They have been divided ever since 22 opposition deputies stood firm against the government's bread and fodder measures. The House failed to support recommendations made by a special committee on the issue, forcing even moderate and centrist deputies to openly express their protest against the policies of the government.

Now many deputies feel the House has lost its elan and self esteem and, more importantly, it has failed to assume its basic supervisory and legislative role.

The hiatus can serve another purpose, of course. It can be used to form another government, but any change in the composition of the government will break the 22 deputy-minister grip the current premier has over the House. Those deputies form a strong bloc inside the House and have succeeded in mobilizing their colleagues when the Prime Minister needed inside support.

As a result the only deputy/minister who criticized the cabinet's bread and fodder policies was the leftist Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Mustafa Shneikar.

The 18 deputies of the National Action Front (NAF) kept their silence since five of their members are in the Kabarti cabinet.

The situation became more challenging when 15 Islamic deputies and independent deputy Talal Obeidat threatened to resign collectively to protest government policies. If they decide to carry out their threat it would be a terrible setback for both Mr. Kabarti and Speaker Sroor.

Meanwhile, observers believe the best solution to end the political deadlock would be for the King to dissolve Parliament and call for early elections. Another option is to delay the coming ordinary session, giving deputies and Mr. Kabarti a last chance to bury the hatchet. ■

Pullback of carrier may signal easing of Iraqi crisis

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

KUWAIT CITY—Even as more US soldiers arrived in this sheikdom Sunday, US Defense Secretary William J. Perry said the United States may withdraw one of its two aircraft carriers now in the region because Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein appears to be backing down from his confrontation with the United States.

"All of the evidence that I have seen in the last four or five days is positive," said Perry, quoted by reporters accompanying him on a flight from Finland to Sweden. "I truly believe Iraq is backing off the threatening actions they were taking a week ago."

His comments reflected what officials here see as the probable conclusion of the latest face-off with Iraq. The crisis seemed to be ending as quickly as it began: Only a week ago Perry was on an urgent tour of the Middle East to request the help of Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to oppose any new challenge from the Iraqi president.

The latest episode began Aug. 31, when Saddam sent tanks and 30,000 troops of his



Saddam Hussein

elite Revolutionary Guard into northern Iraq to help a Kurdish faction defeat a rival group. By helping Masoud Barzani's Democratic Party of Kurdistan take control of the north, Saddam appeared to win influence in the region for the first time since his defeat in the 1991 Gulf war.

His move sowed discord amid the US-led alliance that fought him in 1991, whose members were split over Saddam's right to intervene in a conflict in his own country, while he gained stature in some sectors of the Arab world for his defiant firing at US aircraft over his territory a few days

later.

But he paid a price for his diplomatic and political gains: 44 US cruise missiles launched Sept. 3 and 4 wiped out air defense installations near Baghdad, and the United States unilaterally expanded a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq.

He also lost out on early implementation of a previously approved "oil for food" deal that would have allowed Iraq to sell controlled quantities of oil to pay for food and humanitarian supplies.

Madeline Albright, the US ambassador to the United Nations, said Sunday that the oil sales will not take place until it is deemed safe for UN monitors to go into northern Iraq "comfortably."

Iraq's retreat began Sept. 13—amid strong indications that the United States was preparing an even stronger military strike—when Saddam announced that Iraqi forces would desert from firing again at US aircraft patrolling "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq.

The ground troops, however, will remain and complete a training exercise in the desert 25 miles south of the Iraqi border.

Perry said.

The US buildup continued

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Outdoor festival: Gazans way out from miserable reality

By Ann LoLordo

LA Washington Post News Service

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—It's Thursday, and the guys have gathered for a night out on the town. Pressed and primed, they arrive at the beachfront with dancing shoes on. But the Egyptian band they came to hear won't be playing this night. Israeli authorities stopped the musicians at the Egyptian border and turned them back.

Disappointed but undeterred, Mohammed Abu Halil and his friends still pay the \$3 entrance fee. It will take more than checkpoint politics to ruin their fun. Says Mazen Mosa, 24, "You just throw

your suffering into the sea."

Gaza is usually associated more with misery than relaxation. Its economy is dismal; the unemployment rate tops 50 percent. Sanitation is primitive, with pipes dumping raw sewage into the blue Mediterranean. But despite or perhaps because of the grim conditions, hundreds of young Palestinians come to the Zaharat el Medina tourist village for its weekly music festival.

The outdoor concerts are something new in this territory, a place struggling to define itself now that it is governed by the Palestinian Authority instead of Israel.

The night life at the Gaza Nights Festival offers no alcohol and few opportunities for



Reality bites in Gaza

romance, because tradition-minded Muslim women rarely venture out unescorted.

But the concerts provide an opportunity to socialize and an evening of escape for people hemmed in by an Israeli military closure now in its eighth month. The closure, imposed after a series of bombings in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, prevents Gazans from leaving this rectangular strip of land and from commuting to jobs in Is-

rael.

The festival began in mid-summer, and the concerts are held at a resort village on the Mediterranean where holiday cabins line the beach and water sports and satellite dishes are free of charge. Popular Israeli-Arab singer Raed Kabaha drew a crowd of 6,000.

"After 30 years of occupation, of conflict and struggle between Israelis and Palestinians, people are thirsty for activities like our festival," says Ryad al Hasan, the general manager. "Gazans are ready to participate in modern life. But they need a way to express themselves."

The Gaza is home to 800,000 Palestinians, the majority living in crowded refugee camps. This is where the

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A market for satire

Abd Rabbo pokes fun at political reality

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

JORDANIANS ARE often accused of being too serious and lacking a sense of humor. But the recent debut of the weekly satirical newspaper *Abd Rabbo* is altering the image of the grumpy and cantankerous Jordanians. *Abd Rabbo*, or "Slave of his God," as its editors translated the title into English, is the first newspaper of its kind in Jordan where no serious news is always good and funny news.

Since its first issue, which included an interview with a donkey, the paper persisted in poking fun at sensitive political and social issues.

The highlight of its satirical approach is its depiction of political personalities: they are depicted as street children, new-born babies and even fundamentalist Iranian clerics.

Jordanians are not used to this sort of irony. The advent of the sensational weekly press five years ago has loosened them up a little bit—they read about alleged corruption scandals in official circles, and about social issues that were for long considered a taboo to be discussed in print. But *Abd Rabbo*, which has seen its sales soar every week, has taken the reader to a new frontier where he or she can actually enjoy a good laugh about public figures and their relationships with the public. The newspaper's appeal reflects a sense of public loss in politics. As Jordanians become more concerned about their living standards, they tend to turn away from the official line. *Abd Rabbo* provides a way for a frustrated public to get even with those who they see as being responsible for their worsening economic and social conditions.

The tabloid's fluffy features, a political interview with a dog for example, is a kind of escape therapy for its readers—they take readers away from the passive and tense atmosphere usually created by every-

day political and economic pressures. But while the paper's features and columns seem at the first glance to be funny and irrelevant, deep down they are loaded with sarcasm and criticism of social and political hypocrisy and the failing performance of public institutions.

"Sarcasm is a part of a comprehensive resistance to all the forms of oppression in the world," says Youssef Gheishan, editor of *Abd Rabbo*. Such sarcastic approach comes up whenever there is class discrepancies and hunger in the society, he adds. The main goal of the paper is to convey to the average reader meanings which he or she can not figure out from serious and intellectual articles. The paper also draws people's attention to the very motives behind certain governmental decisions.

But sarcasm is not a simple approach anyway. One has to read between the lines to get the message. This makes *Abd Rabbo* a newspaper that also appeals to intellectual readers who are acquainted with the behind-the-scenes politics of the country. In this respect, Gheishan and his colleagues are living in a perpetual anxiety to come up with new ideas and uncover hidden facts. They are required all the time to keep themselves abreast with the latest social and political developments in the kingdom as well as in the world and know the different social and cultural contexts. When they apply a certain joke or sarcasm to a certain social context, the same joke might not fit another context, something which would spoil the intended humor or criticism.

"We are not clowns of the Sultans, we write about serious topics in a satirical manner. One of the readers who seemed to have absorbed the goal of our newspaper said that *Abd Rabbo* is the most serious publication in Jordan," Gheishan says.

One way to attract readers is to shock them; to present something they have never been used to before. That is what the

editors hope to achieve when interviewing a donkey or a dog, or affixing the head of a minister on a baby's body.

Even the horoscope column is unconventional, where people are not fed the false promises of a happy and prosperous future but are warned of getting beaten by the neighbor, the mother-in-law or run down by a taxi driver. The same applies to their economic page.

"We don't look down on others, we criticize officials in order to break the psychological barrier between citizens and officials," Gheishan stresses.

The idea of the satirical press is not a new one. There have been attempts in the past to publish such papers along Lebanese and Egyptian examples. "Al Sareeh" was the first satirical paper in Jordan back in the forties. Its editor was Hashem Al Sahe'e and it combined sarcasm with satire," says Abdallah Hamdan, editor-in-chief of *Amman Cultural Magazine*. According to Gheishan, a number of Jordanians were frequent contributors to that sort of publications back then including the venerable poet Arar "whose poems were considered the most beautiful sarcasm." Other writers who followed and resorted to satire were Lutfi Malhas, Yaqoub Uweis and Fakhr al-Qawar among others.

Before *Abd Rabbo* came into being, there were previous but short-lived attempts to issue satirical newspapers. Muhammad Tumulahi briefly published *Al Rasheed* (The Pavement). He then made another attempt with *Qif* (Isop), but that paper also folded.

The role of the press in shaping the tastes and views of readers has been a controversial issue since the new Press and Publication Law removed obstacles that had previously prevented Jordanians from publishing their own newspapers and magazines. While some see *Abd Rabbo* as a newspaper committed to national issues and concerns, others see it as a freak and an affront to serious journalism.



Raja Talab, editor of *Al Hadath* weekly, says that *Abd Rabbo* does not take into consideration Jordanian social and moral codes by portraying ministers in humiliating positions. Hamdan thinks that for *Abd Rabbo* to continue success, its editors must benefit from the experience of previous papers in the absence of democracy. He says that though we enjoy democracy, our officials have not got used to such sarcasm.

In an unpredictable and volatile political and social environment, *Abd Rabbo* is a newspaper where people can get a release from everyday hardships. But will *Abd Rabbo* be a survivor, if and when it runs out of topics?

Talab says that in time people will want more than laughs and they will forget the newspaper. But Gheishan responds that *Abd Rabbo* gives its readers more ideas than those of a full program of a political party.

Door remains open for dialogue despite tension

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rights violation. The arrest of Al Asmar was considered by the Islamic movement as "aimed to escalate the tension with movement." The Muslim Brotherhood, the major social and political movement in the country, accused the government of "escalating tension with the opposition."

"Tension is being escalated by the government alone, which has carried out many unjustified arrests and it has also humiliated detainees. And arrests are going on," Mr. Abdel Majid Thunibat, the Overseer of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, told *The Star*. The Brotherhood condemned what they call the "extreme attacks on public liberties," and it demands "the immediate release of all detainees."

Mr. Bassam Al Omoush, an Islamist deputy, and the head of the public liberties committee in the Lower House, talked about a number of arrests which took place in the aftermath of the Karak riots last month. Al Omoush attacked Kabariti's denial of Al Saheel's report, and claimed that the authorities had called Al Saheel officers and threatening its editors.

The head of the public liberties committee claimed that the committee was allowed to visit all prisons in the country except those of the General Intelligence Department.

"We knocked on all doors, whether of the government or the GID, the answer was either too busy or not available, it was all locked," Al Omoush said.

According to Islamic sources, Mr. Kabariti was disturbed about the Hamas movement in Jordan, as their officials sent a letter to HRH Prince Hassan complaining about the arrest of its activists in Jordan. "Hamas here is practicing a political role, we can't find any pretext about the arrests against its supporters," Al Omoush said. "It is the government which is creating problems with everybody."

It is clear for people that this "government is facing rejection from popular and political parties," Al Thunibat added. "Even leading political personalities share the same view," he added. "Therefore, the presence of this government will affect the Jordanian process on all fields and will intensify the congested situation particularly in the light of the government's determination on its decision and practices."

The Muslim Brotherhood adopted the same stand of other leftist and nationalist political forces in calling for the resignation of the government, but this does not mean "we close the door on dialogue with any party," he said. The movement has one condition however: "such a dialogue should be directed towards finding an exit to all the current issues which negatively affect the country and the people."

Thunibat denied press reports which claimed that the Muslim Brotherhood asked to meet the King to discuss the strained situation in the country. "Lately, we did not ask for such a meeting. But we are looking forward to meeting His Majesty."

The Islamic movement denounced Kabariti's accusations that they "have no option to present."

Al Omoush is ready to challenge Kabariti in a debate. "If he finds this logical then we are ready to meet wherever he likes," he added that "We always have the initiative, our history proves that; whether concerning unemployment and poverty or towards building a balanced relation with Iraq and the Gulf states," Al Omoush concluded.

Kabariti lashes out at opposition; defends his policies

By a Star Staff Writer

PRIME MINISTER Abdel Karim Kabariti's statements to the press corps on Monday have revealed a growing tension between the government and the opposition. Mr. Kabariti described the opposition as "crisis-laden" whose objective was not to provide solutions to the country's problems but to attack the government and its policies at any price.

The press conference marked a departure from Mr. Kabariti's style of confrontation. By going to the press and turning the heat on the opposition, the premier is hoping to deflect a recent wave of had press that his government has been receiving.

He depicted the opposition as incapable of offering practical solutions to the country's problems of poverty and unemployment. In particular, Mr. Kabariti appeared to end a

shaky truce with the Islamists by launching his own counter attack to offset increasing calls by members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) for Mr. Kabariti's resignation.

He accused the opposition of avoiding constructive dialogue with the government and of opposing him and his policies for the sake of maintaining their opposition.

Mr. Kabariti's confident and bold approach in Monday's meeting weakened speculations that his government was gasping its last breath—as the opposition and its papers have been predicting. He appeared in full control, or at least gave that impression. But he also went into pains to defend his policies especially his controversial decision to float the price of bread, which triggered riots in the southern towns of the Kingdom last month. Mr. Kabariti attacked his opponents for distorting the government's



Kabariti and Al Moasher meet the press

position on the issue expressing his anger at those critics who did not acknowledge the fact that Jordanians were compensated for the difference in bread prices. He pointed that

since international wheat prices were falling, the government would encourage the private sector to import wheat which could lead to a drop in bread prices.

Mr. Kabariti also defended his government record in fighting corruption, but admitted that it was difficult to bring "symbols" of corruption to court. But he said the government's bread and fodder policy had greatly curtailed corruption and misuse of subsidy. He said apical feed merchants and smugglers of sheep and weapons, who made millions, were defeated because of the new policy.

While he warned that poverty and unemployment were two problems that needed time and collective effort to solve, the Prime Minister noted that one important factor in the process must be to change how Jordanians view work especially their preference for public sector jobs. He said unemployment could be solved if Jordanians begin to accept jobs that are now handled by over 400,000 guest laborers in Jordan.

Mr. Kabariti's Iraq policy, a main issue of conflict between him and the opposition bloc, was reaffirmed during the press conference. He said while Jordanians enjoy a national sense of steadfastness with the Iraqi people, he could not be expected to sacrifice Jordan's national interests and principles by supporting regimes that "build their rule on the skulls of their people." Mr. Kabariti noted that before Iraq invaded Kuwait, Jordan's economic interests were mostly concentrated with the Gulf countries and not Iraq.

He expressed his concern over progress in the peace process and its immediate benefits to Jordanians. He described Jordan's relations with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) as strategic regardless of certain sensitivities and disclosed that Jordan had informed the Israeli government this week that it considers every settlement that

is built in the West Bank as being built in the East Bank.

Mr. Kabariti said his program rests on three solid foundations: the establishment of the Throne, the rule of law and the respect of the military and security institutions. Referring to last week's arrest of Mr. Hilmi Al Asmar, chief editor of *Al Saheel* weekly, the unofficial mouthpiece of the IAF, Mr. Kabariti said the allegations painted in the paper against security forces interrogation methods were false and groundless.

He disclosed that Mr. Al Asmar had admitted that he was forced to publish the article, which described how a Jordanian had been tortured and humiliated by the security authorities, by the IAF executive bureau. Mr. Kabariti said Mr. Al Asmar will be tried for violating the Press and Publication Law.

Outdoor festival, new diversionary

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Palestinian uprising, the "intifada," began in 1987. In the last year, per capita income has dropped to \$700, from \$1,200.

"People have been saying there is going to be an explosion here," says Ron Wilkin, a United Nations Relief and Works Agency staff member in Gaza. "They said the same thing during the Gulf War when there was a six-week curfew, and there was no explosion. They've been through so much, and they keep on putting their chins up."

The people in Halil's circle of friends are university-educated, anxious to begin careers or pursue advanced degrees—and struggling to find work.

But for a few short hours on a Thursday night, they can go to the festival to forget their worries.

In the past, the men would have socialized at someone's house—an evening of cards or games of chess. Now, they come to the music festival.

"They should give us cards, now to get in every Thursday," says Halil.

For Halil and others, Gaza is home. The teenagers of the intifada are now young men waiting for the dividends of peace.

"We live in freedom," says Yusef Wadi, a 24-year-old social worker. "But economically it's very hard. We think all the time about traveling outside the country because the conditions are hard."

A graduate of An Najah National University in the West Bank, Wadi wants to earn a master's degree. He

wants to travel to Jerusalem, but the military closure keeps him in Gaza. Mazen Mosa, trained as a cameraman, hopes to finish his studies and get a job in his field. Nasir Ahmed, 20, wonders whether Americans think of Palestinians only as terrorists.

"We talk from our heart," he says. "Being together is something."

Their spirits still seem high. This circle of friends laughs and jokes. When the band launches into a peppy tune, the guys urge Halil to dance. He gladly obliges, and he is neither shy nor clumsy. He swivels his hips and prances in a kind of Arabic step dance. "Go, go," Wadi yells. "This is belly dancing," another friend teases.

Applause greets his final step. The band strikes up a popular love song. And the men nearly swoon with recognition. Flushed and excited, Halil leads his comrades in song. "From one touch of love, I found myself loving you."

The Gaza night fills with their hearty voices.

Pullback of carrier may signal easing of Iraqi crisis

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this week with the arrival of 600 more members of the US Army's 1st Cavalry from Fort Hood, Texas. About 3000 soldiers have reached Kuwait since last Thursday, and the remainder are expected in the next few days.

Meanwhile, an official Iraqi newspaper said Sunday that a human rights organization will try to trace 600 Kuwaitis missing since the occupation of this country in 1991-92—a sign that Saddam may be adopting a more accommodating stance in the wake of the recent confrontation. Accounting for the missing men, women and children is one of the key conditions set by the United States and Kuwait for lifting the ban on oil sales by Iraq.

Meanwhile in New York, Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller reassured US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Monday that the Ankara government will not cooperate in any way with President Saddam Hussein despite a "vacuum of power" in northern Iraq that jeopardizes Turkish security.

"We have stood by our ally, the United States, and we hope to expand that," Ciller told reporters before a 40-minute meeting with Christopher. That session was dominated by the situation in northern Iraq.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the meeting "reflected the fact that the United States and Turkey have identical views on northern Iraq."

For Christopher, the talks were the first encouraging news in weeks concerning the fraying international coalition that fought against Iraq in the Gulf War in 1991.

Turkey, most Arab members of the coalition, France and Russia had all expressed doubts about the US attack on sites in southern Iraq. US policy-makers were especially concerned that Turkey, which replaced its pro-Western government with a cabinet led by an Islamic party earlier this year, was pulling away from the coalition.

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ist infiltration" by guerrillas of the anti-Turkish PKK faction of Kurds. But Ciller said Monday that she had been misunderstood. She said Turkey is determined to stop the influx of refugees and PKK guerrillas across the Iraq-Turkey border "but we cannot ask Saddam to do that for us."

Burns said the interview "caused anxiety in Washington." But after the meeting, he said, "We are now satisfied by what we heard from Ciller."

Ciller said Turkey will continue to control a narrow "security zone" in northern Iraq. Burns said she assured Christopher that the Turkish occupation of the zone was "temporary" although she did not indicate when the Turkish troops will be withdrawn.

Burns said Christopher and Ciller also agreed to encourage Kurdish faction leader Masoud Barzani, whose Kurdish Democratic Party militia joined in the Iraqi attack on Irbid, to form a new alliance with ethnic Turkish residents of the region. Barzani has indicated that he would like to break his ties to Saddam's government.

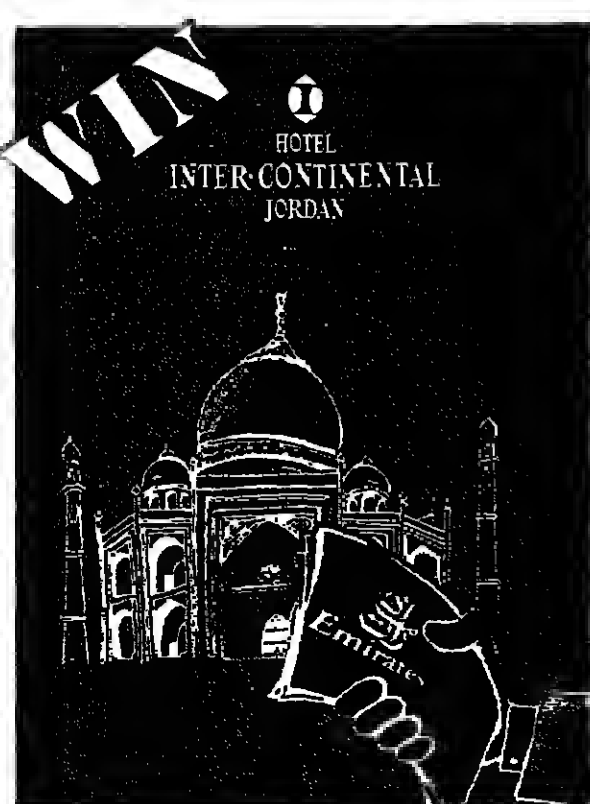
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International tourism day to be held in Um Qais

IRBID—The Irbid Tourism Office (ITO) is to hold a festival in Um Qais town, 120km to the north of Amman, between 26 and 27 September in celebration of the International Tourism Day, director of the ITO said Monday.

He added that the program of the festival, which will take place in the ruins of ancient Gadara, includes a tourism fair, traditional costumes show, folkloric and

other songs performed by Jordanian and Iraqi troupes and poetry recitals by Jordanian and Iraqi poets.

The historical play of "Gadara Rises Anew" will also be performed in this festival. "Sports and voluntary works have a part in this festival. A race for athletes from the Irbid area is also scheduled," the director added.



"With all this might, I can really let him have it!"

"Shame on you, Saddam!"

Our Say...

Second Intifada?

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could not have picked a least appropriate time to give the go-ahead to continue excavation work underneath the Al Haram Al Sharif area. Angry Palestinian reaction to this audacious move is understandable to say the least. Ever since the Likud leader came to power, he has been giving one wrong signal after the other to the Palestinians and the world at large.

This latest attempt to challenge the feelings of both Muslims and Christians, especially the Arab inhabitants of occupied East Jerusalem, unveils the true agenda of the Israeli government and confirms without doubt that the Middle East process has lost its way and could be lost altogether unless something is done.

The Palestinian protest, which was met by force by the Israeli army, has so far resulted in the death of at least four people and many injuries. Mr Netanyahu cannot claim that his government is committed to peace with the Palestinians while his acts show otherwise.

The latest flagrant challenge coincided with Mr Netanyahu's visit to a number of European cities. The aim of that visit was to assure concerned European leaders that his government was committed to its agreements with the Palestinians. But whether Mr Netanyahu expected Palestinian reaction or not, the wave of violence has weakened his position both abroad and at home. For many of his supporters and critics, Mr Netanyahu has fallen into a trap of his own making.

On the other hand, Palestinian leader Mr Yasser Arafat, who feels humiliated and angered by Israel's decision to expand settlement activities in the West Bank, the delay in redeploying Israeli troops in the Hebron area and mounting attempts to change the Arab character of Jerusalem, is justified in calling for a popular backlash against such measures. A second Palestinian Intifada becomes less of a free choice everyday and more of a pressing reality.

The Israelis, who voted in Mr Netanyahu by an insignificant margin, should unite now and express their indignation at the way their prime minister is gambling away the dividends of peace that his predecessors had earned for their country.

Today, Israel is feeling a creeping international isolation because of the stalemate in the peace process, there is a growing tension with Syria which could easily turn into a full-fledged war and most of all it is antagonizing the very people it claims to want to live in peace with. The policies of the Israeli government are leaving little options for the Palestinians and a very small room for maneuverability for its own negotiators.

The peace process was launched to end Arab-Israeli hostility on the basis of land-for-peace. The previous Israeli government was moving in earnest to expand the peace agreements it signed to include Syria and Lebanon. It was honoring its agreements with the Palestinians. Jerusalem was to be discussed in the final phase of negotiations. But today the peace process is a thing of the past—no thanks to sweet-talking Mr Netanyahu who is pushing this region back into the abyss. ■

Gunmen kill 21 at Sunni mosque in Pakistan

By John-Thor Dahlburg

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

NEW DELHI—Rivalry between two Muslim sects in Pakistan erupted again in murderous violence last Monday as masked gunmen opened fire on worshippers at a Sunni mosque, slaying 21 people, many of them boys from a religious school, as they prayed.

The blood bath in Multan, a city in the eastern province of Punjab, came one day after the killing of a leader of the minority Shiite sect in a town 60 miles to the south.

Infuriated by the attack on their sanctuary, Sunnis in Multan came out on the streets to stone Shiite neighborhoods, shout anti-Shiite slogans and block roads with burning tires, witnesses said.

The back-to-back incidents highlighted the increasingly hostile relations between militants of the two rival branches of Islam in a country founded nearly a half-century ago so the subcontinent's Muslims would have a state of their own. Elsewhere in Pakistan, in the town of Larkana, ancestral home of the family of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, police battled followers of her estranged brother and political rival Murtaza, who was slain by police in Karachi last Friday in still

murky circumstances.

Some commentators predicted Murtaza Bhutto's death would further erode the mandate of his sister, whose leadership of Pakistan since 1993 has seen a sharp downturn in the economy and increasing lawlessness in much of the country.

Witnesses said early morning prayers had just started at Multan's Masjid Al Khair when the armed men invaded the mosque and showered the worshippers with submachine-gun fire. The gunmen, said to number four, managed to escape.

All of the victims were Sunnis, the majority denomination in Pakistan. According to hospital officials, many of the slain worshippers were students, ages 10 to 16, from the religious school next to the mosque. At least 33 people were wounded in the fusillade, many of them seriously, and the death toll was expected to rise.

The matting where the Sunnis had been praying was soaked with blood. The dead, their faces covered with cloths, were wheeled away in handcarts. Friends and survivors sobbed at the sight.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but authorities said they believed the attack was in retaliation for the murder of the Shiite leader in Bawalpur the previous day. ■

Middle East perspectives

Arafat's dilemma is one of perception

By Ray Hanania

THERE IS an old saying in public relations: you cannot advocate the reality, unless you live the perception.

Much like a desert Oasis, success and failure sometimes have nothing to do with reality.

Such is the problems that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat faces as he struggles to lead his people to statehood, for the first time in the history of the human race.

Arafat is learning that the ball game of politics and negotiations are played by a hand-drawn, edited and translated by the Americans.

Israel plays by those rules, as do most other nations who have overcome obstacles to establish themselves as world leaders and powers.

But not the Arab World, which continues to place its dreams against the failed track record of its recent history.

The Arab World stumbled out of an era of European colonialism seeking freedom and independence, only to discover that its own leaders had replaced the colonialists with a colonialism of their own.

Such are the Arab World parents of the Palestinian people, autocrats, dictators, strongmen, and monarchs.

From this unlikely recipe,

Arafat is expected to weave a sweater of freedom, liberty and national independence?

Arafat cannot achieve his goals by playing politics the old-fashion Arab way.

There can be no Palestinian state to emerge from the dismal trail of empty rhetoric and hyperbole that characterizes his speeches, policies and the lessons he learned.

Instead, Arafat has to learn to break away from Middle East failure, and focus on the successful techniques that resulted in the founding of Israel, and other Western nations.

Most of all, Arafat and the so-called Palestinian National Authority, desperately needs a lesson in public relations.

Arafat has failed by not properly defining his goal of "an independent Palestinian State."

The world still views this objective as the natural birth of the Palestinian revolution, which is remembered more for the acts of terrorism and bravado than it is for its justification.

And Arafat confronts Israel on issues that he should win, he finds himself losing the battle because Israel better understands the issues of public media manipulation, and they can better "frame" their message to the world masses.

For example, the latest fight between Arafat and Netanyahu, while intensely complex to negotiators, is at best a public relations battle: Netanyahu is turning away from the peace process while Arafat begs for it hat in hand.

Instead of portraying himself as the champion of freedom, Arafat appears as a weak leader, and thereby gives the public room to become skeptical of his charges that Netanyahu is anti-peace.

A strong public relations

campaign would cast Netanyahu as an anti-peace, extremist leader who could plunge the Middle East and the world into the final Armageddon.

Natanyahu sings the public relations chorus better than Arafat for several reasons: he's a seasoned ball player who understands that the media view begins and ends in a New York studio; he has greater flexibility of travel; and he strikes a more appealing image with his chiseled profile and smooth English.

Arafat, on the other hand, is still wearing those military khakis causing many Americans to wonder if he even has them washed.

Arafat is not living his role. In order to be a leader, you must act like a leader.

And, just as important, you must also live like a leader.

His poverty image as a "revolutionary of the people" may go over well in the Gaza Strip, but it so injures his cause elsewhere in the world you have to wonder if he and his aides even understand the significance of "image."

In politics, at the local or the international level, you have to "look" like a winner to "be" a winner.

Perception is reality. Arafat can change how the public perceives himself and his cause. It's not difficult.

But he has to make a real effort to push aside many of his high profile advisers, and replace them with people who understand what needs to be done. ■

Ray Hanania is an award winning journalist and author. His book, *I'm Glad I Look Like a Terrorist: Growing Up Arab in America* will be published this month. His columns are archived at <http://www.usg.org>



Western dominance and the geopolitics of Islam

By Richard Falk

HUNTINGTON'S "CLASH of civilizations" is geopolitically blind, failing to note in relational terms, the defining political and structural links between Islam and the West during the course of the century, and previously. Without delving into the substantive complexity of each dimension of this inter-civilizational relationship, the main instances are as follows: European medieval crusades; European colonial rule and encroachment; Western dependence for prosperity on cheap, abundant supplies of oil; the establishment and security of Israel in the second spiritual heartland of Islam, entered in Jerusalem.

There are two closely related aspects of this structure: geographically, Islam has mainly meant for the West, the Arab Middle East, but not exclusively, as the encounter with Iran suggest; politically, the assertion of nationalism in Islamic countries has been consistently perceived in this period as threatening to Western interests whether it has taken a secular (Mossadegh, Nasser) or religious form.

Upgrading Western interests has required an array of ideological rationalizations: to contain Soviet expansion, to contain "Islamic fundamentalism," to resist terrorism. As a result, the encounter between the West and Islam has been expressed on the Western side in normative, value-laden, and one-sided language expressive of a supposed project to promote secularism in the Arab world, an encouragement of political moderation, constitutionalism, democracy, and human rights. As relations with several Gulf countries demonstrate, however, religious governance poses no intrinsic obstacle to positive political relations with the West if the ruling elites obediently serve Western interests.

It is against this background that the "world order" has been politically constructed by the Euro-American West to restrict drastically, if not exclude, meaningful Islamic participation in global governance structures. For instance, the permanent membership of the Security Council includes no Islamic country although the faith of Islam is strongly held by more than one billion persons and is predominant in some 45 member countries. In contrast, four of five permanent members are adherents of Christian civilization, a disproportion that corresponds neither with demography, geography, economic performance, or even influence.

In other words, if evaluated on a civilizational basis the United Nations is dangerously imbalanced in relation to the circumstances and beliefs of the peoples of the world. Of course, it is this imbalance that has allowed the Christian West to operationalize for five decades the geopolitics of dominance in relation to Islamic concerns, most spectacularly with respect to the role of Israel—its long refusal to implement Palestinian claims as endorsed by the United Nations and its covert acquisition of nuclear weapons without provoking a storm of interventionary opposition.

Let it be understood, also, that Western

dominance has been facilitated, even financed, by the passivity, co-optation, and collaboration of critical Islamic centers of potential resistance, especially Western-oriented governments and a lack of practical solidarity among Islamic governments when civilizational values are menaced. What Islamic solidarity has been fashioned over the years is often of an empty rhetorical variety, which when repeatedly not followed up, can be safely ignored.

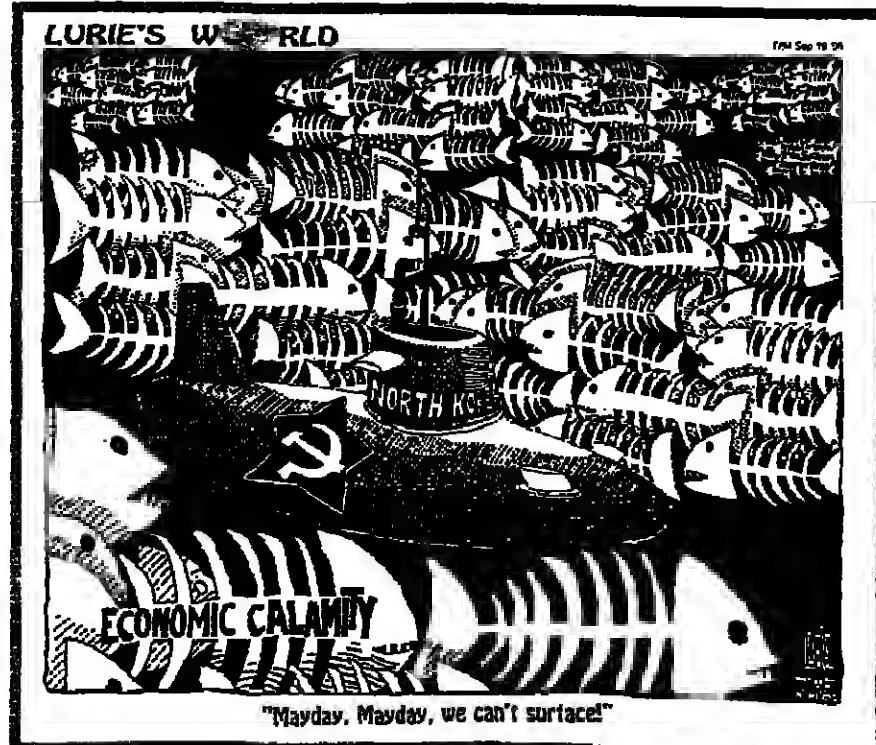
Those various factors that constitute a geopolitical pattern have been evident in relation to the unfolding ordeal of Bosnia in the 1990s. The West was content to allow the conflict to simmer, to remain "impartial" in the presence of massive ethnic cleansing of Muslim areas, and to accept the Serb destruction of a plural, tolerant Sarajevo, and Islam has neither exhibited the will nor the competence to produce a significant response.

To the extent diplomacy was contrived to ensure the containment of the conflict, the one European with the most at stake was virtually excluded from the diverse channels of diplomacy: namely, Turkey, Croatia had Germany, Serbia had Russia, but Bosnia, whose government maintained its multi-religious and ethnically plural orientation despite the most extreme provocations, was without a sponsor on the diplomatic stage even though it was the most victimized country in the aftermath of Yugoslav disintegration. When "a contact group" was formed to coordinate European diplomacy, the United States and Russia were included along with Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, but not Turkey. Turkey had been strongly supported, even subsidized, during the Cold War as a critical member of the NATO alliance, but in Bosnia where Turkey's interests are geographic, historic, ethnic, religious, civ-

ilizational, and strategic, it is excluded from significant participation, and has appeared to acquiesce in this result. The effect is to rally the Euro-American geopolitics of Islamic exclusion.

Not only is this fact of geopolitics worth commenting upon when contemplating the future of inter-civilizational relations, but also the silence of the Islamic world cries out for explanation. It is accepted in global media and academic circles as "natural" to exclude Turkey even in a NATO setting, despite the obvious presence of more direct Turkish strategic interests than those of any other NATO member. Undoubtedly, Turkey's eagerness to be admitted to the European Union encourages its acceptance of geopolitics-as-usual. If inter-civilizational relations are to avoid the clash and dominance scenarios, then a geopolitics of inclusion must be envisioned and championed as an alternative to the present world order with its post-colonial residues of Euro-American dominance. A critical reflection on the fate of Bosnia could be a useful starting-point linking the ordeal of a particular instance with the more veiled oppressiveness of a general structure. The geopolitical "sacrifice" of Sarajevo, the embodiment of Balkan cosmopolitanism, represents the most callous disregard of humane values in Europe since the 1930s when these same European powers closed their borders to Jews fleeing Nazi persecution. ■

Richard Falk is a Professor of International Law at the Princeton University. He is a distinguished political thinker and social analyst who has written a great deal on issues related to US foreign policy.



"Mayday, Mayday, we can't surfact!"

Middle East Beat

by Khairi Janbek

Equal worth

IT IS the same issues: bravado and pseudo-nationalism. Our brethren intellectuals in the Arab world, only talk about relations with the fellow Muslims world.

Pragmatically, if an Arab country can guarantee a deal of some sort with other partners from other areas, then it should do it alone. We have learned at school about common territory, religion, custom, and language as folkloric manifestations and insufficient to provide basis for unity. Why shouldn't an Arab country do what it thinks is right without interference from others?

At this historical state of Arab existence, we should count ourselves lucky that dissent to Arab unity is still within the confines of apprehension. The serious problem in this reasoning will remain in the fact that we are unable to transform our demands of equal chances and opportunities, from the developed world, into that of equal worth.

It is not a chance that we need from the civilized world to respect our contribution. The sad part is that the pattern set for the world to enter the next millennium is clear for the Arabs.

For a start, the US will soon be the center of operations for its own region, composed of Canada and the countries of the Organization of American States, leaving the whole world for its own devices, save for the protection of strategic energy supplies which can be protected by remote command, or even by one or two proxies as the occasion may arise. America has neither the capability to remain the policeman of the world, nor the provider of comfort to the dwindling dictatorships. The EU is very clearly oppressed with its own problems.

However, there is a consensus among Europeans that individual problems can be solved through the collective European perspective. Fortress Europe is on the rise, and with it the wall of exclusivity and homogeneity of an abstract European culture. It is only fair to talk about culture, for the economic foundations and political institutions were laid down some time ago, at an era when most of our region was composed of colonies. South East Asia, in addition to Australia, is also a viable and strong political and economic block. A commonwealth is emerging very strongly in that part of the globe.

Our attempts of unity have either failed because they were created out of ideological spite, or because our mentality did not evolve beyond the legacy of the lines drawn in the desert sands. It is not poverty that should unite us, neither need, nor a common enemy, but definitely, sense of our global worth and self-respect.

Realism dictates that we should realize facts on the ground. Israel is part of the region, and Turkey and Iran are major actors in the history of the Middle East. Our outlook must be linked to our objective existence. The mechanisms that we should create to partake in the civilization dialogue in all its dimensions must be built on concrete objectives rather than wishful assumptions. Our common problems can be solved through a collective Arab effort, and the institutions for that, must be built very quickly. ■

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Palestine Post



Ayman Yaghmour and his son stand in the ruins of their house that was demolished by the Israeli army in Jerusalem.

Palestinian academic calls for geological centers

Dr. Mohammad Ghazal, a professor at the Faculty of Engineering at Al Najah University, called for establishing geological centers. He said that these centers can either work independently or as affiliates to university departments. The purpose would be to conduct valuable studies in the Palestinian territories.

The professor said that the geological issue is increasingly becoming very important because of its direct connection to the land. He added that geology has much to do with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Due to the recent political changes and the existence of the Palestine National Authority (PNA), having such centers can defend the Palestinian right to their own land. The job of the centers will be to counter other non-Palestinian researches which aim to strengthen the Israeli existence in the region. Moreover, what is important is that these centers will work to reevaluate the research made by Jewish geologists.

Projects at \$6.9 million in Gaza

Dr. Khalid Nijm, the chairman of projects department at PECARD, the Palestinian Agency for Development, said that there are 11 infrastructure projects that are under way in the Palestinian territories. Costing \$6.9 million, these projects, which are mainly related to the sewage systems, are being executed in the governorates of the Gaza Strip of Beit Lahia, Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, Gaza and Rafah. The projects, which will take between two and eight months to complete, are being executed by Palestinian contractors and a Danish contracting company. Besides these, talks are going on to build nine schools and a clinic in Gaza Strip. The finance of these projects will be provided by the World Bank, Dr. Khaled added.

Israel imports Jordanian fruits and vegetables

The Israeli Ministry of Agriculture recently allowed Israeli companies to import Jordanian fruits and vegetables that are exempted from taxes. This is in line with the Jordanian-Israeli agricultural agreement. The deadline for submitting applications is 8 October. Commodities that are allowed to be imported include tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, apples and grapes. The Jordanian exporters are also allowed to import Israeli products such as mango and avocado on the condition that they export other items to Israel.

Unstable Israeli conditions lead to decline in tourists

According to a report published by the Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth, the number of tourists to Israel is decreasing. This is attributed to unstable political developments.

One of the travel operators in Israel said that tourism in Jerusalem went down by a third, and hotels up till June were empty.

Four US groups have cancelled their trips to Israel for the next month claiming that "there is no stability in Israel, and we are afraid of visiting this area," a touristic agent said.

The number of tourists who visited Israel until last June dropped by 23 percent compared with the same period last year. Because of losses many employees in travel agencies have become jobless. Also Al Al, the Israeli airline is suffering from high losses.

New branches for Palestine Bank

The Palestine Bank is planning to open new branches at the Palestinian territories and in Jordan, according to its chairman Mr. Hashim Al Shawa.

"We had recently called the Jordanian government and the governor of the Jordan Central Bank to allow us to open our branch in Jordan, but so far we received no answer," Al Shawa said. The Palestine Bank granted loans and housing facilities at more than \$50 million. In addition, it paid taxes of \$3.4 million to the PNA, Al Shawa added.

Yeltsin's surgery may be postponed as too risky

By Richard Boudreaux
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MOSCOW—In a sign that President Boris N. Yeltsin's heart surgery may be postponed or even canceled, the doctor chosen for the job said that damage caused by the Russian leader's newly disclosed heart attack this summer might make the operation too risky or of little help.

The assessment by Dr. Renat Akchurin—coupled with a pessimistic report by the Kremlin's chief physician—indicates that the doctors are resisting pressure from the 65-year-old Yeltsin and his political aides to hurry a coronary bypass operation.

Until last Friday, Yeltsin's doctors had said little about his condition after the president's 5 September announcement that he would undergo surgery at the end of the month. Their preliminary judgments are based on electrocardiograms and other tests Yeltsin had over the last week.

A decision on the surgery is expected Wednesday or Thursday at a meeting of the doctors. They have invited the American heart specialist Dr. Michael DeBakey to contribute his advice.

Their decision will affect the political direction of this nuclear-armed nation, which is struggling to establish a democracy but lacks clear rules of presidential succession.

If Yeltsin were judged unfit for surgery, it is unlikely he would recover the vigor he needs to reassert full control over the government. A succession struggle involving his prime minister, his security chief, his Communist foe and others—under way since he fell ill three months ago—would only intensify.

Yeltsin and some advisers, particularly his chief of staff, Anatoly B. Chubais, favor prompt surgery, hoping to restore his health and authority. The president has said his other option, "to work passively," is unacceptable.

On Saturday, Chubais told a meeting of Russia's Democratic Choice party: "Those politicians who believe that it is time to take up starting positions in a presidential campaign will very soon realize that they have jumped the gun."

But Akchurin, who trained with DeBakey and is chief of cardiovascular surgery at Moscow's Cardiology Research Center, is building a subtle case in public against rushing to surgery.

He infuriated the Kremlin by disclosing in an interview with ABC News that Yeltsin had suffered a heart attack this summer—some time between the first round of presidential balloting 16 June and his reelection 3 July. In brief remarks Saturday, the 50-year-old surgeon insisted, "We saw scars on the electrocardiogram"—evidence, he said, of fresh damage to Yeltsin's heart tissue.

Although he did not treat Yeltsin's summer illness, Akchurin said the damage he detected last week could have resulted only from a recent heart attack. He said the damage "might be" a complication that would make Yeltsin's surgery risky or of little help.

Akchurin did not elaborate on his risk assessment. But other specialists in Russia said they prefer to delay any heart surgery for six months after a heart attack to give the damaged tissue a chance to heal.

Yeltsin was hospitalized twice last year for a constricted blood flow to the heart, and it

is believed—but never confirmed by any doctor—that at least one of those episodes resulted in a heart attack.

In addition, Dr. Sergei Mironov, the Kremlin's chief physician, has raised concerns that Yeltsin's other organs may be too unhealthy to withstand a heart operation.

As apparent complications prolong his pre-surgery stay in the Kremlin hospital, Yeltsin's media service keeps insisting that nothing is wrong. Last week it released a silent film of a relaxed-looking president chatting and gesturing in a hospital meeting with Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin.

Doctors kept Yeltsin in the hospital this weekend.

"The Russian doctors are doing damage control," said Dr. Manuel Queiroga, associate chief of cardiology at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington. "They obviously don't want anyone to think this is a slam-dunk operation and take the blame if he doesn't come out of it. And they're trying to get some outside opinions to support what they're saying, which is smart on their part."

While most Russian voters suspected this summer that something was wrong with Yeltsin's heart, Akchurin's dis-

closure of his attack caused a political storm.

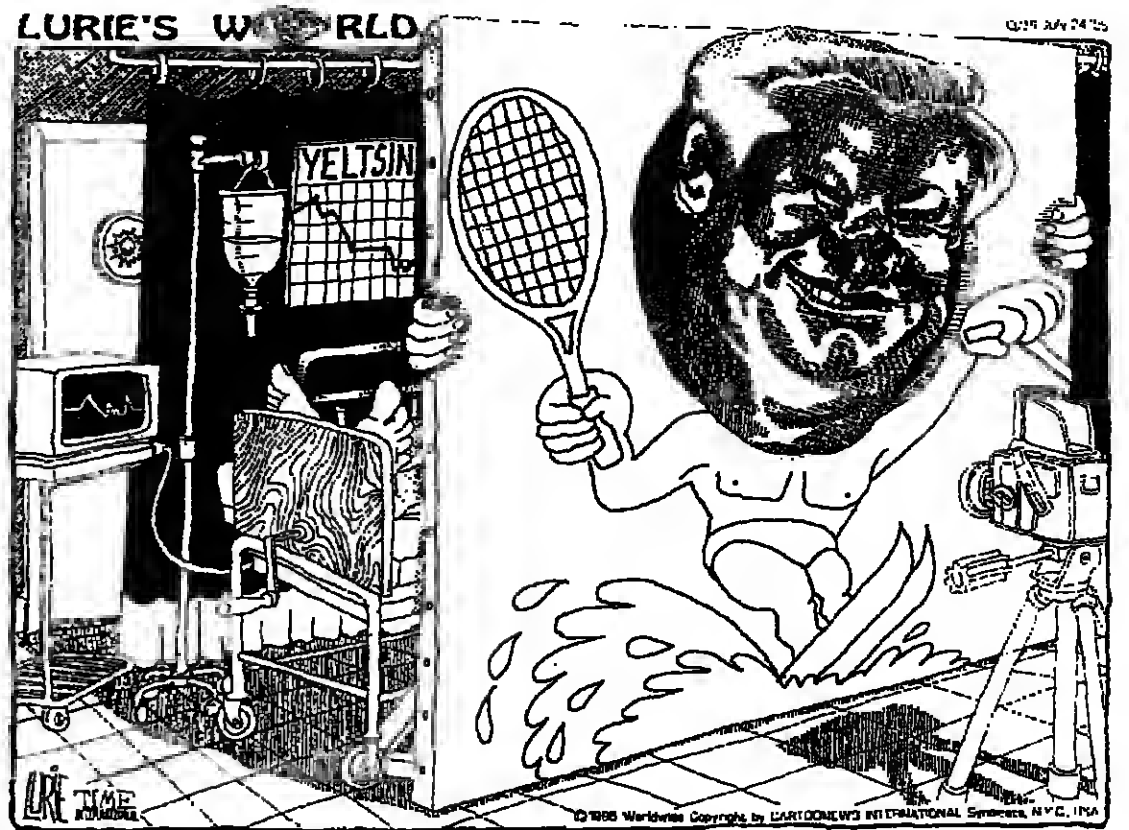
Noting that the government had covered up the attack in the days before the runoff election between Yeltsin and their leader, the Communist Party claimed again that Yeltsin is unfit to govern and demanded a new election.

Under the constitution, the prime minister takes over and a new election must be held within three months after a president dies or becomes incapacitated. But nothing in the charter spells out who would decide on the president's fitness to rule.

Last week, presidential spokesman Sergei V. Yastzhenzky announced that Yeltsin would sign a decree handing Chernomyrdin full but temporary presidential powers before undergoing surgery. The spokesman said Yeltsin would sign another decree taking his powers back as soon as he recovers.

Meanwhile, a row is brewing in Moscow. The nationalist and communist deputies are very angry saying that Yeltsin should have disclosed the state of his health long ago and are calling for his immediate resignation.

The president of the Duma (Lower House), Mr. Gennady Seleznev called on Yeltsin to resign if he does not undergo heart surgery soon. "In this case Yeltsin should himself ask to leave his duty," he said. "The situation in Russia is not conducive to a light work schedule." But observers argue that Yeltsin has drawn up a constitution "to fit his own size;" he can go on ruling even for a few hours a day, delegating responsibility to very close advisers. He can't be made to leave but his departure must be voluntary.



Facing world's pollution in the North

By Howard Schneider
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

OTTAWA—Each summer in the fields of the American South, pesticide residue heats under the sun, rises and drifts north, swirling toward the top of the world.

There, a molecular trickle of toxaphene, chlordane and other compounds condenses, falls to Earth and works through the food chain from fish, to seals and whales, to the Inuit and other Arctic-dwelling people who rely on the sea for most of their diet.

When they found PCBs in polar bears and mercury in the umbilical cords of Inuit newborns, it was, officials from the world's most northern countries said here this week, time to look seriously at protecting the Arctic from the effects of industrialization thousands of miles away.

The "ice curtain" clearly had fallen.

"The Arctic is more than myth and dreams... The fish and whales carry scary amounts of contaminants," Canadian Environment Minister Sergio Marchi told representatives of the eight "circumpolar" nations gathered here to begin a joint initiative on Arctic issues. "The

Arctic is an early warning system for our planet... There is a link from the rice fields to the ice fields."

The need to understand those connections, and the potential threat to Arctic people if they are ignored, prompted representatives of Canada, the United States, Russia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Denmark to assemble here last Thursday and sign an agreement creating the Arctic Council. The group will have no formal power over its member nations. And while cooperative research on some environmental issues has been conducted for years under a separate pact, there is no definite sense among members of the new council about how the information will be used.

Scientifically, for example, health officials say they are hesitant to tell the Inuit and other native people not to eat seal and whale meat, because the other benefits of their fish-based diet still seem to outweigh the risk of ingesting Arctic species whose fat cells accumulate reservoirs of pollutants. Politically, the issues become even more delicate, involving



Saving the north pole from ecological pollution is becoming an urgent concern for many states

questions of how industry or consumers in North America, or throughout Europe, should react to pollution drifting from their cars and factories into a still largely uninhabited part of the Earth. The group will not even meet again until 1998, after completion of environmental studies.

But by uniting the countries' efforts on issues of economic development and cultural pro-

tection as well as on environmental concerns, officials say they hope the new international panel will give some political punch to an area that, while harsh and isolated, is home to some of the world's most ancient cultures.

The group will not, for example, be able to tell the United States whether to develop its most northern Alaskan oil reserves, or counsel Russia

about how aggressively to mine for minerals in Siberia. But it may recommend methods for minimizing the effect of such projects and spreading the work and benefits among native communities.

"There is an image of this barren land that is very pristine and hardly anybody lives there, but in many ways it is not that," said Mary Simon, Canada's ambassador for circumpolar affairs. "You are talking about a much more severe climate, but it does not stop people from being concerned about the environment, about their livelihoods... their cultural identity, their language."

The area is massive, more than 2.3 million square miles in Canada's portion alone, which the country defines generally as any place north of 60 degrees latitude. Other countries set the boundary farther north, but the council's work will still encompass most of Alaska, much of Iceland and Greenland (a self-governing possession of Denmark), the northernmost parts of Sweden, Finland and Norway, and a swath of Russia stretching around the globe to the Chukchi Sea.

It is home to perhaps only 10 million people. Some live in cities like Murmansk in Russia. Others, in the hundreds of thousands, are clustered in

small villages, settlements where the hunting and cultural customs date back thousands of years, and where reliable television service arrived only recently with satellite dishes.

Groups representing the Arctic's native people regard the council's creation as something of a political breakthrough for them.

Although the idea of an Arctic Organization has been around for years, it was only with the end of the Cold War that it has become politically feasible. Security concerns have lessened in a region where the US and Russia nearly touch at the Bering Strait. Likewise, the breakup of the Soviet Union has made Russia more willing to discuss issues like atomic or mining-related pollution of its northern lands.

For the native peoples, there is more complete representation than what they say is typical of international bodies. Three main groups—the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council for the Nordic areas and an organization representing northern Russians—will have permanent, though non-voting seats on the council.

By Edna Yaghi

TODAY WAS Hani's birthday. He was six years old. There would be no cake and no one to sing "Happy birthday" for the small orphan who lived with his aunt somewhere in a refugee camp in Gaza Strip, the most crowded place on earth. Hani's father died in prison from torture while under interrogation when the child was two years old. He could barely remember that black day when his mother cried for hours and pulled the curtains in their tiny house, shutting out the rays of the bright sun. Almost a year later, his mother was killed too when she joined in a demonstration against the Occupation of Palestinian land. No one knew what to do with the boy. As far as the neighbors could figure out, Hani had no grandparents and the closest relative was his mother's sister. Word was sent to the aunt and she came a few days later to pick up the child who had been staying with neighbors since his mother's death.

The aunt had four children of her own. Her husband was a fugitive. The first thing she said to Hani was three at the time was, "That's all I need. Another mouth to feed!"

For the next three years of his life, Hani lived with his aunt and cousins. Her house was too full of people and it was covered with a tin roof that made the small house seem like an oven in the Summer and a refrigerator in the winter.

It would have been better if only there was a little love for the boy to help ease the pain and loneliness that he felt. But Aunt was too busy, too poor and had too many problems to bother with Hani. Most of the time he played in the street with his cousins and ate whenever there was food and slept whenever it was time to sleep. Sometimes his cousins hit him because they knew he had no one to speak out for him. He could not complain to Aunt because she would not listen. He could only go in a corner and cry and wonder why there was so little love and comfort in his life.

Hani was younger than his cousins. They usually told him what to do and he obeyed. If he didn't, he knew he would be beaten. His cousins knew in turn that one would take Hani's side or stand up for him. So he was constantly being told, "go and do this for me Hani!" or "Do as I tell you Hani!"

He learned to be quick or else he would be hit with hard punches and kicks. He never spoke much. He had no one to say anything to. He was so sensitive to life but nothing was sensitive to his feelings. He would delight in small childhood things, such as a blooming

flower or try to catch the rays of the morning sun or see where the sparrows' nest was or try to interpret the coo of the lonely wild pigeons that made their nest in cracks of buildings.

But today was his birthday. Nonetheless, there seemed nothing special about this day. Hani felt no different than usual nor was he aware that on this day six years ago, he was born. Aunt was not planning to make a cake for him. She had a hard enough time getting food on the table as it was. So right after breakfast, the birthday boy and his cousins went to play in the street. The day was yet young and there was a sweet coolness about the early morning air.

"Hani," one of his cousins yelled from a distance, "go and get some stones for us so we can play."

Hani did as he was told. He got as many stones as he could manage and was ordered to go and get some more. He complied. While his cousins were shouting and laughing, an Israeli jeep drove down the dusty street. Hani's cousins began to throw stones. The birthday boy just stood motionless and watched. He was hesitant but did not know why. "Come on Hani, what's wrong?" Throw

stones or you'll see what will happen to you!"

The jeep was like a cannon ball. Hani stood paralyzed. He could see the mask of hate on the faces of the Israeli soldiers. The cannon ball drew closer and closer. His cousins ran and hid. Hani remained frozen to the spot where he was standing. He had one stone still in his hand but his hand was next to his side. When the jeep pulled to a stop and the soldiers jumped out, Hani started to run. He was too late. One of the soldiers grabbed him and shouted, "so you want to throw stones do you? Well let us teach you a lesson. You will never throw stones again!"

Before he knew what was happening, Hani was passed like a football between the four Israeli soldiers who took turns beating him. They punched him, kicked him and one soldier took off his belt and whipped the small boy on his back until he fainted. The soldiers laughed. One picked up the limp body and threw it in the jeep and they drove off down the street saying to each other, "this is one we taught a lesson to. Let's dump his body in the next village!"

The unconscious child was taken off in the Israeli jeep. His blood soaked his

clothing and matted his dark hair. About 20 kilometers down the road, one of the soldiers took the bloodied form and threw it on the side of the road. The soldier jumped back into the jeep and it sped away as they laughed at the deed they had done. Hani lay in the dirt and hot sun for some time until a shepherd stumbled on his body.

"What's this?" The shepherd asked as he picked up the limp boy. "Who's done this to you but Hani did not answer. The shepherd carried him to a hospital and waited there until he was sure the boy would be all right. Hani woke up on the examination table in the emergency room. He stared up at the bright lights through his swollen and by now black and blue eyes. It seemed everything hurt him. Everyone had hurt him. He didn't know how to cry. He had to lock himself away from this cruel world.

A doctor, with a kind face and soothing voice said, "Well, hello little fellow! Looks like you've had some rough handling. But you are a brave lad and in no time we'll have you all cleaned up. What's your name?"

Hani wanted to speak but could find no words. Today was his birthday. This was

his gift. He couldn't understand why he was being punished. What had he done to deserve such treatment?

At last, after his wounds were cleaned and dressed, the birthday boy was placed in a clean bed in a cool room near a window. He could hear wild pigeons cooing outside his window, but he knew the coos were not for him. He smelled the scent of roses, but he knew the scent was not meant for him. He saw the sun shining brightly, but he knew it didn't shine on him.

He became the talk of the hospital, how he was brought in by a shepherd and how his back was badly beaten and how his whole body was terribly bruised. Everyone could only say, "Who would do such a terrible thing to such a small boy?" Today became tomorrow. No longer Hani's birthday. Weeks passed. Hani remained in the hospital because no one came to claim the boy and the boy either could not or would not talk. It was decided that perhaps, he had been beaten for throwing stones, but Hani's doctor told social workers, "I don't know how to treat him. I've tried everything but it is as if either the boy is retarded or just doesn't care if he lives or not."


Hani is not retarded. He is a very bright young child. What he needs is understanding and love and a therapist to bring back his speech and a sense of order into his life or he will remain forever scared and a silent lamb.



By Samir W. Raafat

It is not as though Ross Perot were an ordinary man who decided at the

ROSS PEROT, Presidential hopeful



The child-like behavior of Perot was a great disservice to this country, whether one was for him or agin' him. He had been a viable force in opening a door for candidates who did not fit the stereotypical mold of Republican or Democrat. Oh certainly, we have the Green Party, the Libertarian Party and various and sundry others, but no

After partaking in Sadat's cabal to Jerusalem, Dr Ghali would gradually make it to the forefront of the national and international political scene. Forever cautious, he stuck to his favorite maxim: "Il faut plaquer aux souverains." In English, "one must—occasionally—stoop to conquer." (Could this have been an inherited trait from his grandfather?). In this respect, I distinctly remember how, the few times he showed up during my first year in college, Dr Ghali's lectures on political systems hardly ever touched upon Egypt's. The learned professor of international law went to great pains never to take sides or criticize the regime even though in those days everyone seemed to be doing little else, especially after Egypt's humiliating June 1967 military defeat. University professors—including the communists, the Nasserists and the socialists—were coming out, openly criticizing or defending the regime citing example after example, from

The Sto
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Fax. 6482

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Over the top
When he made it to the top position at the UN, Ghali became a household word and a prime time news denizen. This is not to say that he was heterotopic or unknown somehow. Quite the contrary. Ghali was a popular figure in the African continent as well as the countries of the Francophony. His frequent-flying habits had taken him to the darkest corners of Africa, always by way of Paris. Paradoxically, when you checked some of the lesser pre-1992 "Who's Who" editions there are no entries for Boutros Ghali. Was it because these reference books could not fit in all the members of the

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for more
Ca

Based on precedent votes we know that nothing is ever final when it comes to choosing a new UN chief. The last word on who will be the next Sec-Gen has yet to be heard. And with the Ghalis' propensity to make spectacular comebacks à la Prince de Talleyrand, for all we know, the next Sec-Gen could be... Boutros 'Boutros-Ghalis'. ■


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Perot deserves to debate

It is not as though Ross Perot were an ordinary man who decided at the

ROSS PEROT, Presidential hopeful

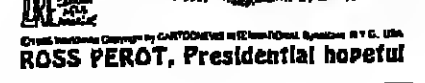


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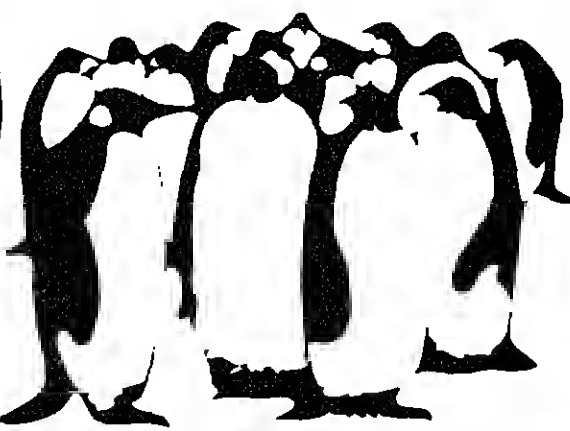
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ROUND
OWNAl Roomi performs
at the Intercon.

AMMAN (Star)—Under the patronage of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, the famous Lebanese singer Majda Al Roomi holds a concert today at Amman Intercontinental Hotel. The concert will be held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts and UNICEF. Moreover, a number of celebrations will take place at the Intercontinental Hotels all over the world. Proceeds of the festivities will be devoted to helping the children of the world.



Abstract works of 'sound and fury'

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

The abstract works of the Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Jaloos, currently displayed at Baladna Art Gallery, have much to say about human suffering and a complex reality. They are moments of agitation, sadness and love mixed together to produce a complicated structure. The exhibition was opened under the patronage of HRH Princess Wijdan Ali in cooperation with Al Arafat schools. Titled *Shajan*, it goes beyond the traditional expressive motifs of art to more suggestive creations.

"Shajan is the point which lies all the way between sadness and happiness," said Al Jaloos. This moment of indecisiveness played a big role in having paintings which indirectly "address the very human essence." Al Jaloos believes that human essence is the main addressee in an abstract work, these are far from mere moments of excitement. Art is a product of inner conflicts and memories that are all melted in one pot. The different memories of the artist are all present in the moment of creation.

Al Jaloos said that the human essence may even precede the artist's day of birth. He means that human beings share universal convictions and feelings which can be presented any time in a work of art. The paintings no longer belong to a certain culture that imposes its language and social aspects and even colors on the artist but to a huge world which abounds with life discrepancies. It is then the artist role to absorb all these differences, or at least those which are surrounding him, to experience new and wide horizons and keep the process of discovery on. "My works are the product of this horrible mixture of happiness and sadness and the everyday questions and contemplations which never cease to be."

From the first look at Jaloos's exhibition, one gets the impression that the paintings are all identical. The difference was limited to certain colors and brush strokes but the content is uniform. And this is what Al Jaloos emphasized saying that his works form one body. He added that one abstract work can not safely convey alone the emotional "charges." That is why he put identical works in groups. "Because of the abundance of different choices, I used different forms to express one visual idea," he explained.

Though, artistically, black is avoided by many artists and is perceived as a dangerous color, Al Jaloos uses it to comment on a grim reality. It is by this color that the seemingly silent paintings were seething inside. "When using black, the artist locks himself inside walls. But with black, it is becoming a challenge to either jump over or penetrate these walls," he stressed.

The paintings are divided into Acrylics and collage works. Asked about the difference, Al Jaloos said that in the collage works one can employ the letter technique. "I use the typed letters which do not stand independently but within paragraphs," he said. Irrespective of the content of the paragraph, "I make use of the shape of the sentences and letters and fit them into the color circle." Some collage works have juted and coarse surfaces that "truly represent the harsh inner of human beings." The exhibition is a venture upon producing the unexpected and shocking. Not only do the paintings mark the artist's absorption of how colors relate to each other but also of his belief in an always changing reality which requires a change in art.

Al Jaloos was born in 1960 and has a B.A. degree in Business administration. He later on studied painting at the Jordan Institute of Fine Arts and became member of the Jordanian Artist



Association. He is also a member of the Writers Association having published a collection of short stories. In addition to the many one-man

shows he held, Al Jaloos participated in a large number of local and international group exhibitions.

Floral exhibition

Tradition and prestige

By Anca de Malo
Special to The Star

Last week's ephemeral but unforgettable flower show that was presented by the Young Women Christian Organization (YWCO) at the Intercontinental Hotel is the 22nd manifestation of an annual tradition in the social and artistic life of Amman.

Inaugurated on 17 September by HRH Princess Basma, honorary president of YWCO, the exhibition brought together more than a hundred floral arrangements created by 52 participants—florists, amateurs, Irbid artists (members of the Irbid International Jordan Branch, and its honorary president is Mrs. Kinoura, the wife of the Japanese Ambassador in Amman), members of the hosting organization and its "Flower Show" committee chaired by Mrs. Salwa Shwehat.

As an innovation, this year, the flower collection was thematically conceived as a bridal show. Reflected by most of the arrangements, the topic was reinforced by wedding outlets such as candy trays, ring boxes and table decorations, displayed among marvelous collection of flowers.

The parade of three original wedding gowns designed by innovating fashion creators charmed the audience.

Beautiful fresh flowers from Jordan as well as various accessories like candles, feathers, dry fruits, colored ribbons and bamboo baskets, were skillfully transformed into artistic objects by sensitive women in love with natural beauty and Irbid philosophy, in both traditional and free modern styles.

"The most important benefits of this event lie in its creative and aesthetic functions themselves," Mrs. Rose Muasher, vice-president of YWCO, underlined. "It is a challenge to elevate the aesthetic taste of the participants and to improve the qualitative standard of this annual exhibition," she emphasized. "Beginners are more than welcome and their free participation is a source of mutual learning."

"Flower shows are a matter of tradition and prestige," added the president of YWCO, Mrs. Mirella Abujaber. "Nevertheless the financial benefit, whatever it be, is invested in the various projects of our organization, in function of the needs of each of its three branches, Amman, Al-Husun and Madaba."

As expressed in the international motto of YWCO (the largest women movement in the world), "Body, soul and mind," affiliated Jordanian YWCO seeks to satisfy physical, emotional and spiritual expectations of women and children "irrespective of colour, creed and dress." Consequently, "vocational centres and secretarial courses have been created in the three branches," declared Mrs. Abujaber. "In Baqa'a refugee camp, 250 children are accommodated in a YWCO nursery and a great number of women are involved in the income-generating project of producing uniforms for 10 private schools," she said.

"Summer camps have been organized for the youth and we are defining a bakery and a hostel projects for the near future."

The show is over and the flowers withered. Beyond the memory of the perfume, they stay alive through the concrete opportunities they helped forward, to the satisfaction of those who created and witnessed their one-day elegance. With love and enthusiasm, organizers and participants offered the public one privileged moment of grace and plenitude.

Companies in sport

AMMAN (Star)—To upgrade the efficiency of companies' sport in Jordan, Mr. Mithqal Asfour, president of Companies' Sport Union, said during the first meeting of the union, that "we have to have the one-team work spirit." The meeting included the assignment of union's posts as follows:

Mr. Fadi Ghandour, vice president, Mr. Amer Al Muhaisen, secretary, Mr. Omar Malhas, treasurer and Mr. Assem Al Abed as an official spokesman.



Al Abed

Abu Shakra launches
new Shahi perfume

AMMAN (Star)—General Manager of the Abu Shakra Trading Agency Mr. Rami Abu Shakra launched the new perfume Shahi for women.

Mr. Abu Shakra says that every year, new fragrances for women come and go in great numbers.

Only topical and attractive concepts underpinned by sound market research, and supported by in-depth media cover that is promoted by comprehensive activities can hold a long term position in the market.

"Abu Shakra is facing this challenge and presenting an old world in new ways."

Shahi is the magic of unknown worlds. It is moments of sensuality, exotic sounds and hidden secrets. Shahi is the scent of the modern woman.

Shahi the smell of success, is a fragrance full of fantasy and mysterious sensuality.

With its exciting and delicate charm, Shahi is the fragrance of the '90s, the fragrance for the modern independent woman who loves the magic of the unknown and likes

A woman who approves of emotions and imagination. Shahi is the ideal fragrance for this woman.

Shahi is available at Abu Shakra showrooms and the perfumeries and pharmacies.

Lurie creates a cartoon monthly

By David Astor
Syndicates News Service

Political cartoonist Ranan Lurie has created a magazine that is making its debut this month. *Cartoon News: The Current Events Educational Monthly* is aimed at high school students.

"If you can not enter the brain of the teenager through the door of long, gray text, let's enter through the window of political cartoons," said Lurie, who, with more than 1000 clients in 102 countries is the most widely syndicated political cartoonist in the world.

He noted that the magazine is not only designed to help high schoolers become better informed about current events, but to get them interested in seeking out editorial cartoons in newspapers.

Each 48-page issue of *Cartoon News* will feature 80 to 100 cartoons from the previous 30 days by Lurie, Herblock, Paul Conrad, Jeff MacNelly, Steve Kelly and many other liberal, centrist and conservative creators.

Accompanying each cartoon is a 50-word description written by a panel of well known newspaper and magazine editors of the event or issue that inspired the drawing. There will also be current events questions, with answers on a separate sheet.

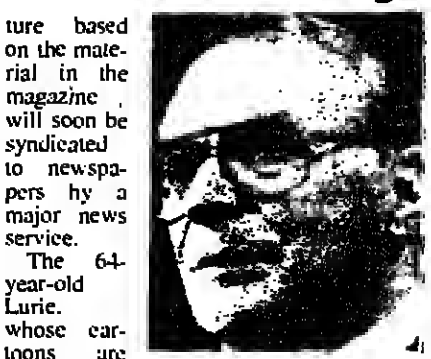
And there will be anti-drug/alcohol/smoking cartoons, historical cartoons, current events crossword puzzles, connect the dots caricatures, contests, editorials and more.

Cartoon News is initially being pitched to private schools, where it can be easier and quicker to add something to the curriculum. A survey of these schools has revealed a lot of interest, according to Lurie.

The *Cartoon News* editor in chief added that he would also like to sell the magazine to public schools. Inner-city schools would get the \$30-a-year publication at cost, he said.

Lurie further noted that the US-based magazine (which might carry ads in the future) will soon have international editions in countries such as Italy and Korea.

He also said that a fea-



Lurie

● Under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma, The Diplomatic Corps Annual Charity Bazaar will be opened next Thursday at the sport city premises. The diplomatic missions and international organizations participating will display their countries' most common products. The proceeds of the event will go to the Mabarrat Um Al Hussein Orphanage.



Scrapbook Mad cows and insane men!

By Osama El-Sherif

I MUST admit that I am a bit concerned about Mad Cow disease—from an intellectual point of view that is. Granted that as affable consumers of all that the West has to grant us, we have a very little say in the matter. As things will turn out to be, we probably have been eating infected beef, dairy and other products all the time without knowing it. How that will affect us is to be seen in the future. But the point I'm trying to make is this: When thousands of cattle suspected to having the virus...is there an ethical standpoint here that we should consider? I mean is it the fault of the hooved animals, long presided to humans as a source of nourishment, wealth and power, that they should perish, before their time, as a result of human error?

This episode reminds me of Orwell's "Animal Farm" where animals take over the world and run their own lives—at a price of course. We all remember what the pigs turned out to be: pigs in every sense of the word. No offence is intended.

But let's assume that cows could talk and that they alarmingly notice that a growing number of their species are going absolutely bananas, stark raving mad, that is. The cows equivalent of the UN meets in an emergency session to debate the crisis and all delegates point the finger to human intervention. "It's the polluted feed these humans have been feeding our British cousins that is responsible for this tragedy," says the US delegate.

The British delegate, herself a victim of the deadly virus, couldn't agree more—if only she could bring herself together to say it.

Argentina's delegate boasts that since his countryfolk have been used to grazing in the open natural fields, such disease was unknown.

Humans, the delegates concluded, were greedy. They already make billions of dollars from trading in beef, milk and dairy products, not to mention leather and cow semen. But now they have gone too far. Culling thousands of "our brethren" is a crime that "we cannot stand for."

"Why not divert some of their wealth to find a cure to those sick cousins of ours?" wondered a Russian cow.

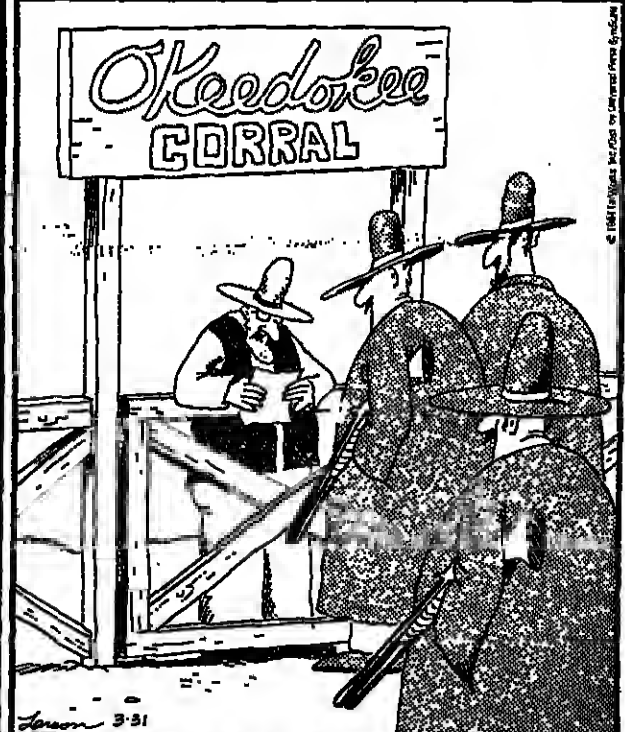
So culling was rejected as an option. Instead, world cows vowed to unite, deny humans their milk and even resist artificial insemination in every way until a peaceful solution to the crisis of the British cows is found.

Could such a rebellion ever take place. Can man one day find himself face to face with a peaceful resistance to his greed from all animals, domestic and wild? Could that rebellion turn into a sort of an infatuation where all animals would seem to us to have gone "mad"?

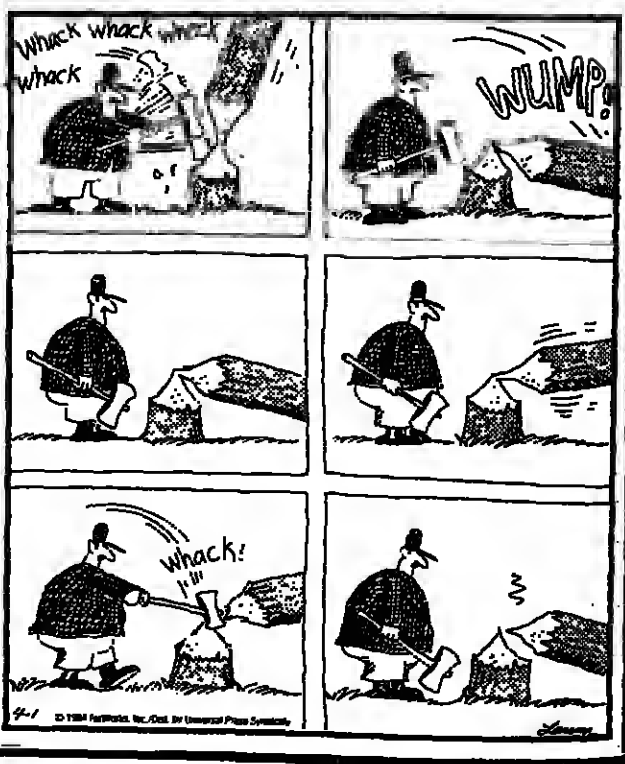
Highly unlikely, but just to make sure, no more hamburgers and from now on it's only humus and foul for me! ■

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Let's see here... Oh! Close, but no cigar. You want the place up the road—same as I told those other fellahs."



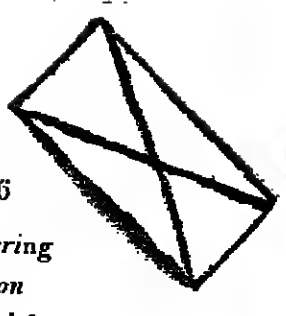
AGENDA

- Exhibitions**
- Summer '96, at Darat al Funun, continues till 10 October.
 - Basketry Exhibition, at Jordan Design and Trade Center, continues till 10 October.
 - *Shajan*, by Mohammad Al Jaloos at Baladna Art Gallery, continues till 2 October.
 - Works by Ghada Dahdaleh at The French Cultural Center, continues between 2 till 29 October.
- Films**
- *Kamal Boullata*, at Darat al Funun, 26 September, at 6:00 pm.
 - *L'Affaire Dreyfus*, at The French Cultural Center, 26 September, at 6:00 pm.
- Concerts**
- *Magna Carta*, at The British Council, 26 September.
- Lectures**
- The History of Mughal Art-architecture, Miniatures and jewelry, at Darat al Funun, on 29 & 30 September.

SEPTEMBER
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by GARY LARSON
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SEPTEMBER 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star



THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
UN FIVE CONTINENTS



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Ranking the true health and wealth of emerging economies

Index looks at more countries, fewer variables Korea, Taiwan and Chile win the medals

By Wilford H. Welch
THE SECOND World Times Wealth of Nations Index records significant changes in the rankings of the 35 emerging economies analyzed compared to their standings in the first index published in March. Thailand and Romania were the big winners, rising four places or more, India, Colombia, South Africa and Cuba among the big losers. Korea, Taiwan, Chile, The Czech Republic and Israel still came out on top, while Vietnam and Pakistan remained firmly on the bottom. Labeled the "Triangle Index" because it combines and weighs equally the economic, social and information exchange foundations on which each country rests, the index was developed in part to help international

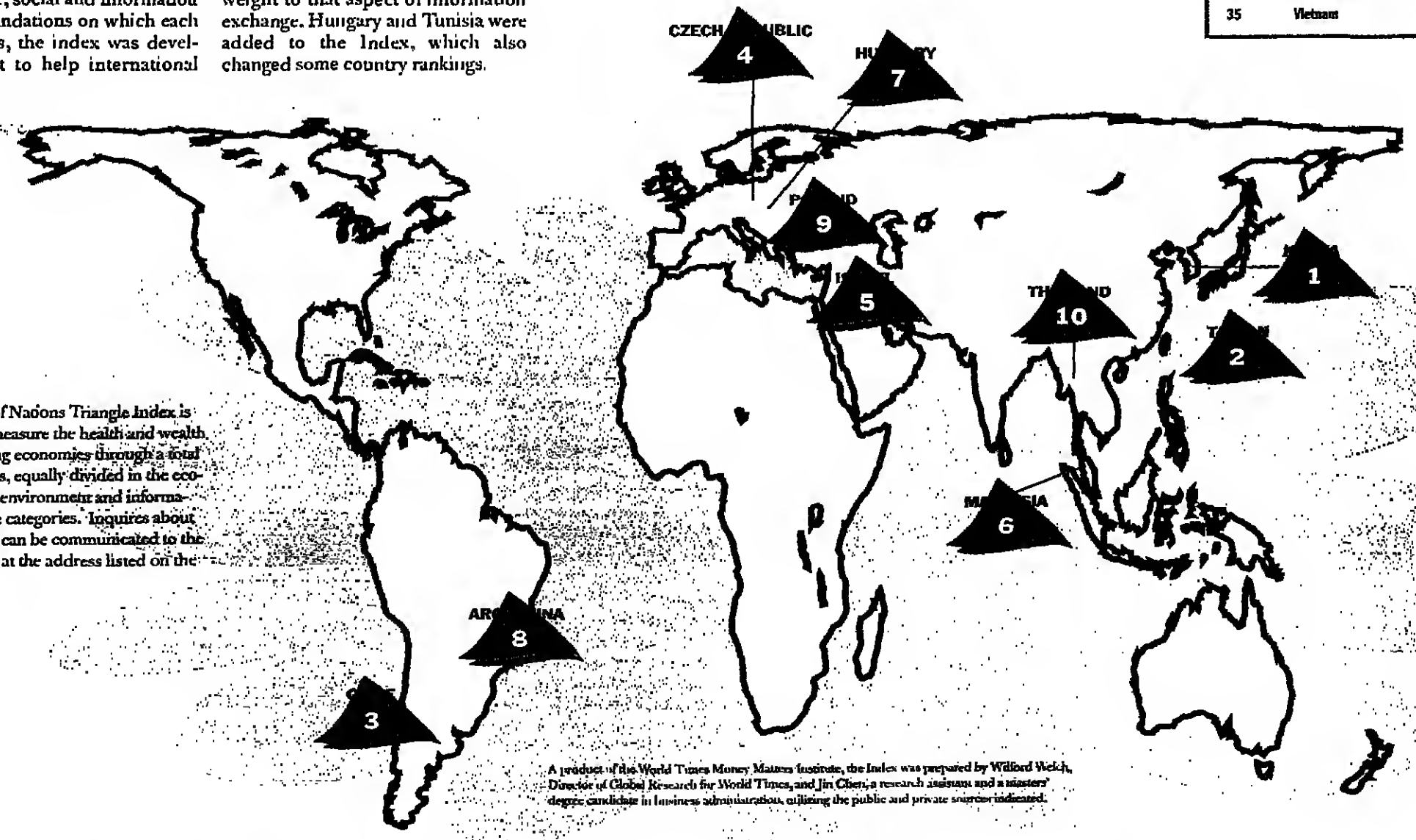
money managers and other sources of capital make investment decisions with a greater appreciation of each country's relative strengths, weaknesses and potential. Some of the changes in rank are due to the introduction of new variables, some to the removal of others. A measure of the degree to which commercial property rights are protected in each country was added, for example, after extensive research for the index by a multinational real estate firm. Elsewhere, "access to the Internet" was removed and "number of Internet service providers" retained after statistical analysis demonstrated that the inclusion of both gave too much weight to that aspect of information exchange. Hungary and Tunisia were added to the Index, which also changed some country rankings.

The greatest amount of remodeling was done to the economic leg. Indicators of a country's potential economic vulnerability were added, as were measures of its integration into the international economy. Four new variables were introduced to measure how efficiently businesses can operate in each country. One of the most unique of these measures perceived levels of corruption. This all led to some interesting results. While Korea and Taiwan still captured the gold and silver medals in terms of their overall economic performance, Malaysia and Thailand came out stronger than both these Asian Tigers in terms of the internationalization of their economies. In addition, the Czech Republic and Malaysia came out stronger than Korea and Taiwan in terms of their business environments. No region of the world dominates these rankings of the world's foremost emerging economies. In fact, of the 10 highest ranked countries, four are Asian, three Eastern European, two

Latin American and one Middle Eastern. Readiness to take advantage of the information revolution has no geographic favorites. Two are Asian, two are Latin American and one is in the Middle East. Economically, four of the top five are Asian, but in terms of social environment, four of the top five are former socialist countries of Eastern Europe and none are Asian. It will be interesting to see if these former socialist nations maintain their high marks in such categories as income distribution, male/female wage parity and unemployment rates as they become more market driven economies. Each March and September The World Paper will release the Wealth of Nations Triangle Index. Like any new model Toyota, Maruti, Ford, or Mercedes, we will always seek to introduce new features and refinements while retaining all the basics. ©

WILFORD H. WELCH IS GLOBAL RESEARCH DIRECTOR FOR WORLD TIMES.

TRIANGLE INDEX					
Raw scores with rankings in parentheses for each of the three legs of the index					
FINAL RANK	COUNTRY	ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT	TOTAL SCORE
1	Korea	483 (3)	515 (1)	364 (10)	1362
2	Taiwan	515 (1)	465 (5)	379 (8)	1359
3	Chile	445 (5)	437 (4)	417 (2)	1299
4	Czech Republic	388 (6)	411 (6)	413 (3)	1212
5	Israel	346 (11)	472 (2)	370 (9)	1187
6	Malaysia	502 (2)	347 (13)	382 (26)	1151
7	Hungary	293 (21)	414 (5)	401 (5)	1108
8	Argentina	359 (7)	421 (3)	325 (14)	1105
9	Poland	293 (21)	369 (11)	427 (1)	1089
10	Thailand	467 (4)	260 (21)	292 (22)	1019
11	Costa Rica	295 (20)	322 (16)	386 (6)	1003
12	Mexico	316 (15)	379 (10)	305 (18)	1000
12	Uruguay	229 (32)	414 (5)	357 (11)	1000
14	Brazil	355 (9)	333 (14)	305 (18)	993
15	Romania	275 (26)	298 (20)	411 (4)	984
16	Russia	270 (27)	366 (12)	309 (16)	945
17	Venezuela	259 (31)	391 (9)	288 (25)	938
18	Panama	286 (23)	310 (17)	322 (15)	920
19	Colombia	386 (16)	301 (19)	301 (21)	910
20	Ukraine	198 (33)	325 (15)	339 (12)	862
21	Turkey	322 (13)	247 (23)	290 (24)	859
22	South Africa	319 (14)	305 (18)	227 (32)	851
23	Indonesia	356 (8)	202 (28)	292 (22)	850
24	China	363 (10)	216 (27)	272 (27)	841
25	Ecuador	260 (30)	249 (22)	306 (17)	815
26	Tunisia	278 (25)	187 (30)	334 (13)	799
27	Jordan	270 (27)	236 (24)	285 (26)	791
28	Philippines	305 (18)	218 (26)	261 (29)	784
29	Peru	307 (17)	233 (25)	229 (31)	769
30	Morocco	301 (19)	190 (29)	223 (33)	714
31	Egypt	286 (24)	161 (32)	262 (28)	709
32	Cuba	158 (35)	157 (33)	380 (7)	685
33	India	324 (12)	148 (34)	219 (35)	681
34	Pakistan	263 (29)	179 (31)	221 (34)	661
35	Vietnam	194 (34)	126 (35)	238 (30)	558



A version of the World Times Money Matters Institute, the Index was prepared by Wilford Welch, Director of Global Research for World Times, and Jin Chen, a research assistant and a master's degree candidate in business administration, utilizing the public and private sources indicated.

A telephone culture Koreans dictate economic progress

By Walter Yoonido
MY TELEPHONE LINE is still down and it's a big inconvenience for me," a resident in her late 50s told a television news crew from KBS TV that arrived in the remote town of Munsan after torrential rains swept through the northeastern areas of South Korea in late July. The housewife shrugged off the suspended water supply and the damage to her house. But losing her phone service was a different matter. Even though some remote villages have only had telephones for 20 years, they have become an integral part of Korean culture. Though South Korea is still a developing nation, with a per capita income just over US\$10,000, more and more South Koreans are scrambling to sign up for mobile phone services. By the middle of this year, 2.4 million of South Korea's 44 million people subscribed to a mobile phone service. Most young Koreans take it for granted that the telephone is as freely available as air or elementary school education. Early this year, South Korea commercially launched digital mobile phone services, adopting the code-division multiple access (CDMA) technology format. While the CDMA format has not won official approval from the governments in many industrialized nations, the South Korean government ambitiously designated the format as the standard for the nation's digital communications network. In South Korea few people realize they are using the most advanced technology in the world. It comes as an even bigger surprise to many Western people, who still view South Korea as an emerging economy whose culture inhibits the

► DICTATE PROGRESS PAGE 2

- #### ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT
- NATIONAL ECONOMY
 - GDP growth rate
 - Real GDP per capita (in PPP\$)
 - Annual inflation rate
 - Savings rate
 - Overall government deficit/surplus (% of GNP)
 - Current account balance (% of GDP)
 - External debt/GDP
 - Debt service/exports
 - Foreign reserves (excluding gold)/imports
 - INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY
 - International trade (% of GDP)
 - Speed of integration
 - Convertible currency?
 - Foreign direct investment
 - Portfolio investment
 - Market capitalization
 - BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT
 - Economic Freedom Index
 - Independent Central Bank?
 - Full central clearing services?
 - Commercial Property Protection
 - Privatization Index
 - Corruption Perceptions Index

- #### INFORMATION EXCHANGE
- INFORMATION APTITUDE
 - Newspaper readership (per 1000 inhabitants)
 - Literacy rate
 - College students studying applied and natural sciences (%)
 - College students studying abroad (%)
 - English as primary language for business?
 - INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE
 - Radio ownership (per 1000 inhabitants)
 - Television ownership (per 1000 inhabitants)
 - Telephone ownership (per 1000 inhabitants)
 - PCs (residential) in use (per 1000 inhabitants)
 - Faxes in use (per 1000 inhabitants)
 - Cellular telephones in use (per 1000 inhabitants)
 - Membership in INTELNET/ITU/WIPO?
 - Information technology expenditure (% of GDP)
 - INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION
 - Books published annually (per 100,000 inhabitants)
 - Press Freedom Index
 - Number of independent daily newspapers published
 - Number of independent radio stations
 - Number of independent television stations
 - Cable television available?
 - Satellite television coverage?
 - Number of Internet service providers

- #### SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT
- STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT
 - Income distribution (top 20%/bottom 20%)
 - Male/female wage parity
 - Unemployment rate
 - Refugees as % of population
 - Territorial disputes?
 - Political rights index
 - Independent Rule of Law
 - Private automobiles/trucks in use (per 1000 inhabitants)
 - HEALTH
 - Birth rate
 - Life expectancy
 - Death rate
 - National healthcare program?
 - Government expenditures on health (% of GDP)
 - Pension spending (% of GDP)
 - Population per physician
 - Grain harvested area per capita
 - Daily calorie supply
 - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
 - Protected land
 - Air pollution index
 - Population with access to clean water
 - Signatory to CITES/ITTA/Montreal Protocol/UNCLOS

DICTATE PROGRESS

Continued from page 1

adoption of information technology.

Most Western experts believe freedom in individual life and unfettered access to information are keys to success in understanding, absorbing and using information technology. "I am surprised South Korea ranks so high in the world in terms of information technology, whereas its society is still restricted and less developed," said a foreign expert residing in Seoul.

South Korea ranked the first among 34 developing countries in a recent comparative analysis on information adaptation and utilization, which the World Times conducted using various figures presented by major world organizations.

Industry analysts in Seoul said there was no problem with the result of the index. According to one, South Korea's long history of military-backed dictatorship, allied to exaggerated media coverage of anti-government demonstrations and violent labor disturbances, led many foreigners to overlook the possibility that information

technology could be flourishing.

"Yes, the long dictatorship restricted individual freedom. But I think nothing in the world has only a single face," said the analyst. While the long dictatorship suppressed people's demand for democratization and freedom, those in power needed visible economic results to offset these restrictions. To achieve this, their regime gave birth to a unique economic structure featuring the *chaebol*.

A *chaebol* is a family-owned business conglomerate. Its member firms holding stakes in its "sister firms" and guaranteeing payment when those sister firms get loans from banks. *Chaebol* member firms also benefit from insider trading between themselves, thus securing stable sources of demand or supply for raw and intermediary materials and for finished products.

This structure, in which *chaebol* were provided with government protection from competition, has enabled the nation's heavy-machinery and electronics industries to record some of the

most dramatic growth rates in the world. This rapid growth in manufacturing capabilities was one of many factors helping South Korea take the world's leading position in the information technology utilization, industry analysts said.

Along with the unique economic structure, analysts also cited high educational standards, military hostility with communist North Korea, and South Korea's high population density as factors that boosted information technology utilization.

South Korea has one of the highest rates of literacy and secondary school enrollment in the world, both of which were partly due to the long tradition of venerating men of letters. Even today, several high-school graduates commit suicide every year after failing in college entrance examinations that are conducted almost uniformly across the country during a very short period.

"Long dictatorship has resulted in a very uniform society. This ironically

supports high educational standards," said one social science professor in a Seoul-based university.

More than four decades of hostility with North Korea has also contributed to the development of information technology in South Korea because heavily fortified army units located along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) need advanced communications capabilities to hone their readiness against possible military incursions, analysts said.

The DMZ is a buffer zone dividing the two Koreas, which have been technically at war since the end of the 1950-53 conflict that involved China and the US. An estimated 1.5 million heavily armed troops from the two sides are confronting each other along the DMZ.

High population density also helped South Korea boost usage of information facilities because it is relatively easier to install and maintain communications infrastructure in a territory with high population density than doing so in a huge territory with low population density. □

WALTER YOONMOO IS A FREELANCE WRITER RESIDING IN SOUTH KOREA.

First place has its limits, says Chinese graduate student

Writing a report you can't print

By Jin Chen

THE FIRST PLACE IN THIS ROUND OF final exams is Chen Jin, the second is

I was pleased when I heard the teacher announce the ranking of 53 students in the class, and immediately envisaged my mother's most likely response — she would ask my dad to continue his work, then take half a day off from her work so as to take part in the subsequent parent-teacher meeting because we all knew that the whole meeting would be about the ranking. It was generally understood, although nobody explicitly stated in the school, that the student's evaluation was based solely on his/her academic performance. I did not realize the weakness of this system until my first boss asked me, "Put some paper into the printer and print out your report," and I couldn't do it.

Just as academic test scores should not be used to predict somebody's actual ability to succeed in a professional career, a country should not be evaluated solely on the

growth rate of its gross domestic product (GDP), but on a wide range of indicators.

In the same way exclusively pursuing academic excellence caused the lopsided development of my education, pursuing GDP growth alone will cause unbalanced allocation of limited human and natural resources

An academic ranking based on the scores in six subjects can be improved at the cost of disengaging in music, drawing or athletic activities, which did not contribute to the ranking; GDP growth rate can be speeded up at the expense of the productive capacity that we pass on to future generations, including clean air and water, or by sacrificing human rights.

The question then is how to give a holistic measure of the wealth of nations while keeping a simple methodology for the sake of effective communication. Among more than one hundred variables considered, we selected 63 variables, which apply to relatively distinct aspects of the wealth of the nation. We decided to rank each one of them and then weigh them equally.

Yet, nothing is black and white. If a student does not have the pressure of pursuing academic excellence and reads a novel instead of a textbook, is it good for him or bad for him? The an-

swer is, of course, subject to numerous factors—what kind of novel it is, how useful it is in terms of obtaining some sort of education and to what extent he has mastered the text material. Likewise, when ranking the variables, we had to deal with whether a higher government budget surplus was better, whether a higher savings rate is better, whether low unemployment is better, whether less government regulation is best, and so on.

The answers to many of these questions relate to which part of the business cycle—the peak or the trough—the economy is in, which is to some extent subject to people's perception. The ranking of these variables therefore has to assume that the public's perception carries great weight regardless of the specific economic or social conditions. This assumption certainly does not mean that the ranking system is right. It simply enables uniform comparison across countries.

Is it fair to impose a standard to all countries, which is a mosaic of indicators and represents a certain value system? No, it is not.

However, it is definitely a step forward from using a single indicator such as GDP growth, pursuit of which may very well cause an unbalanced economy.

Should my mom have felt proud of me in the parent-teacher meeting? Yes, it was an achievement.

Should this achievement have been obtained at the cost of my own interests in music and other extra-curriculum activities? No. But the question still remains: where is the optimal point at which my most limited resource—time—is used most effectively?

That depends on which index I am being measured against. □

JIN CHEN IS A MASTER'S DEGREE CANDIDATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AT BOSTON COLLEGE.

Seoul, South Korea, home to some of the most advanced information technology in the world



A passion for freedom is rewarded

History's tide turns for Poles

By Daniel Passent

POLAND BRINGS TO mind passion and turbulence, the ravages of war, gallant cavalry charges and Solidarity defying communism—not the kind of history associated with high rankings on an index of social health.

History, however, is being kind to Poland. Behind the fierce rhetoric of numerous political arguments, most Poles are united in a belief that they are living through one of the best periods in the past 1,000 years. Energized by the end of communism, their society is making dramatic progress without the usual fear that the territorial imperatives of strong neighbors will bring everything crashing down.

This improvement has been cloaked by controversy and bitter political debate on subjects ranging from privatization to the future of the bankrupt Gdansk shipyard, but it is a sense of historic opportunity rather than despair that is fueling these debates. With the glaring exception of income distribution, most of Poland's social institutions are flourishing.

From a geopolitical standpoint, Poland is secure for the first time in centuries. Germany, one of her traditional foes, is united, democratic and has renounced any territorial claims. Indeed, Germany is now Poland's largest trading partner. The other great foe, Russia, is in deep crisis, saddled with immense domestic problems and the remains of an empire that continues to fall apart.

Over the past 10 years the situation along Poland's borders has changed dramatically. Until 1989, Poland had only three neighbors: Germany, Russia and Czechoslovakia. Today, that list now reads: Germany, Russia, the Ukraine, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Belarus and the Slovak Republic. In Polish eyes, quantity has given way to quality and variety when it comes to its neighbors.

Domestically, the demise of communism opened the door to democracy and two of its foundations, freedom of assembly and freedom of speech. There are now over 200 political parties of all stripes, from the reformed communist Democratic Left Alliance to the right-wing Confederation of the Independent Poland.

Freedom of speech is now guaranteed and widely enjoyed. There are numerous newspapers and magazines, again spanning the political spectrum. At one end is the left-wing weekly *NIE*, published by the notorious former communist government spokesman Jerzy Urban, at the other the right-wing *Gazeta Polska* which specializes in anti-communist rhetoric and xenophobia. In addition, there are privately owned radio stations competing with public and Catholic church-owned networks.

As it stands, the only people who have to worry about their political free-

doms are former communist dignitaries and those connected to the old security apparatus. Efforts are underway to pass legislation—known as the lustration laws—that limit the rights of former security officials to hold high public office such as a governorship of cabinet position. Currently there are an estimated 200 people holding high public office who were connected to the communist secret police, and some high-ranking communist party officials are serving the current government—Prime Minister Włodzisław Cimoszewicz and Minister of Education Jerzy Wiatr are both former party members.

This is one of the most sensitive issues currently facing Polish society; even Lech Walesa, the hero of Solidarity, has been placed on a list of former security collaborators by his right-wing enemies. While lustration is arguably justified on moral and political grounds, many Poles are worried about the legal implications of singling out a small category of citizens.

However, lack of freedom is not the biggest worry for most Poles. Lack of money is. While in general the Polish economy is booming—"Poland is a new star on the horizon," according to the *Economist*—not everyone is participating equally in the boom. Unemployment stands at 15 percent, and some experts predict it will stay at that level until at least 2000. There are 500,000 Poles who are considered officially homeless.

In contrast, the country's "new rich" are building Beverly Hills-type mansions, importing expensive cars and planes, vacationing in exotic places and

establishing foundations. Shops that were empty 10 years ago now offer everything, including luxuries imported directly from Paris and Milan.

So far, this contrast has not shown up in the official statistics or created any serious social tension. This is due in part to the fact that the income structure inherited from the communists is still a factor, and also to the fact that the new rich are still scarce enough to be statistically insignificant. In a recent survey, a cross-section of Poles asked to rank themselves on an income scale of 1 to 7 gave an average score of 3.8, suggesting that most believe their country is still fairly egalitarian.

Another trend that may cause social problems in the future is immigration. According to the Ministry of Interior's Tomasz Ruba Rozowski, immigration from East Europe, the former Soviet Union and Asia is growing. About 3,000 illegal immigrants a year are deported, and the Warsaw police incurred criticism earlier this year when they evicted 100 Romanian gypsies, deported them and burnt down the "village" they had erected on the banks of the Vistula River.

If Poland can deal with these problems while they are still marginal, and solve the problem of unemployment, then it will maintain the high ranking it has achieved on such indexes of social health as the World Times Wealth of Nations Index. After all, the country has already done a remarkable job of burying its gray, grim communist past. □

DANIEL PASSENT, A FORMER EDITOR OF *The World Paper*, IS AN EDITOR AND COLUMNIST FOR THE WARSAW-BASED NEWS WEEKLY *Polityka*.

This improvement has been cloaked by controversy and bitter political debate on subjects ranging from privatization to the future of the bankrupt Gdansk shipyard

SOURCES FOR TRIANGLE INDEX

World Economic Outlook, IMF
Human Development Report, UNDP
World Development Report, World Bank
Trends in Developing Economies, World Bank
Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries, World Bank
World Investment Report, UNCTAD
Quarterly Review of Emerging Stock Markets, IFC
Averting the Old Age Crises, World Bank
Measuring Political Freedom, Magomed Desai
US Department of Agriculture
CIA country reports
World Resources
Freedom House
Heritage Foundation
Kenneth Leventhal, Earnst & Young Real Estate Group
Transparency International
UN High Commission for Refugees
Daring Underdogs World Reference Atlas
The Universal Almanac
The World Almanac and Book of Facts
IDG Worldwide Book
World Times, internal research

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Assaings

Celebs...



Joan Collins dressed up to the nines to celebrate the launch of her autobiography titled *Second Act at The Black Lodge* in London last week.

The Star's GUPPE TV

Programs on JTV
from 28 September - 4 October

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

- 2:00—Teletext
- 3:00—Holy Koran
- 3:05—Moomin
- 3:30—UEFA Football Match
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Baker's field
- 8:00—The Album Show
- 8:45—Miami Vice
- 9:30—Prism
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—The Bold And the Beautiful
- 11:15—Feature Film: *The Ultimate Revenge*, starring: Lou Phillips & Melinda Dillon

SUNDAY

- 2:00—Teletext
- 3:00—Holy Koran
- 3:05—Fievels American Tails
- 3:30—Just The Job
- 3:45—Mac & Muttley
- 4:00—Italian Soccer
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Cinema, Cinema
- 8:00—American Chart Show
- 8:45—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
- 9:10—Blackie's Magic
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Dazzle (Best Seller)
- 12:00—Short Story Cinema

MONDAY

- 2:00—Teletext

3:00—Holy Koran

- 3:05—Adventures On Rainbow Pond
- 3:30—UEFA Football Match
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna
- 8:00—Deep Probe Expeditions (Doc)
- 9:10—The Lazarus Man
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—The Bold & The Beautiful
- 11:10—Bodies Of Evidence

TUESDAY

- 2:00—Teletext
- 3:00—Holy Koran
- 3:05—Iris-The Happy Professor
- 3:25—Captain Planet
- 3:45—Alf
- 4:10—Road to Avonlea
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Blossom
- 8:00—Man Alive (Doc)
- 8:30—Encounter
- 8:45—Varieties
- 9:10—Star Trek
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Mission Impossible
- 11:15—China Beach
- 12:00—My Two Wives

WEDNESDAY

- 2:00—Teletext
- 3:00—Holy Koran



Madonna in American Chart Show, on Sunday at 8pm

- 3:05—Iris
- 3:20—The Flintstones
- 3:45—The Adventurers
- 4:10—Kelly
- 4:30—Earth Revealed
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—The Four Seasons
- 8:00—Super Stars of Action
- 8:30—Chancer
- 9:10—Hunter
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—The Bold & The Beautiful
- 11:15—Hart To Hart

THURSDAY

- 3:00—Holy Koran
- 3:05—Jonny Quest
- 3:30—NBA Basketball
- 4:30—Take Your Pick
- 5:00—French Programs

- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Here's Lucy
- 8:00—People Court
- 8:30—Challenges
- 9:10—Star Trek
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Feature Film: *Race Against Time*, starring: Richard Crenna & Patty Duke
- 12:00—Family Matters

FRIDAY

- 3:00—Holy Koran
- 3:05—Twinkle
- 3:30—Name Your Adventure
- 4:15—Crystal Maze
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Growing Pains
- 8:00—Fech Varieties
- 8:45—Secret Weapons
- 9:10—The Wanderer

- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Classic Movie: *Adventures of Don Juan*, starring: Errol Flynn and Viveca Lindfors

PROGRAMMES EN FRANCAIS SAMEDI

- 5:00—Dessins animés
- 5:15—Emission Jeunesse
- La vie devant moi
- 5:30—Jeux
- Les bons génies
- 6:00—Série
- Police des polices
- 7:00—Le Journal
- 7:15—Faut pas rêver
- USA

DIMANCHE

- 5:00—Dessins animés
- 5:15—Emission Jeunesse
- La vie devant moi
- 5:30—Jeux
- Qui est qui
- 6:00—Magazine
- La marche du siècle
- 9:00,000 de bénévoles, 1ère partie
- 7:00—Le Journal
- 7:15—Magazine
- Sports et musique

LUNDI

- 5:00—Dessins animés
- 5:15—Emission Jeunesse
- La vie devant moi
- 5:30—Jeux
- Les bons génies
- 6:00—Magazine
- La marche du siècle
- 9:00,000 de bénévoles, 2ème partie
- 7:00—Le Journal
- 7:15—Magazine
- Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

- 5:00—Dessins animés
- 5:15—Emission Jeunesse
- La vie devant moi
- 5:30—Jeux

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Video releases

"BEFORE AND AFTER" (Hollywood, \$100.71): Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson star in director Barbet Schroeder's ("Reversal of Fortune") drama as a New England couple who find themselves on opposite sides when their teenage son (Edward Furlong, of "Terminator 2") is accused of murdering his girlfriend. Predictably, extreme stress results for the entire family; Alfred Molina also is featured. ** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

"A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE & HATE" (New Line, \$102.65): Martin Lawrence moonlighted from his Fox comedy series "Martin" to serve as executive producer, co-writer, director and star of this parody of "Fatal Attraction." He plays a ladies' man who definitely attracts the wrong lady when a woman he flirts (Lynn Whitfield) seeks revenge; singer Bobby Brown and veteran performer Della Reese co-star. ** (R: AS, P, V)

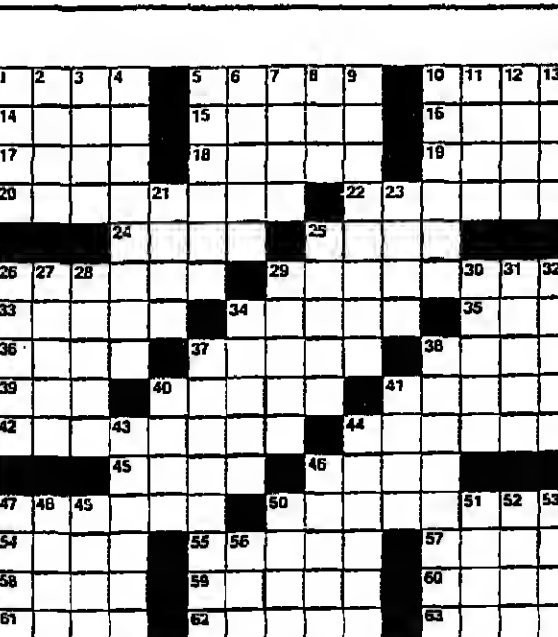
COMING SOON: "FARGO" (PolyGram, Oct. 1): Film-making siblings Joel and Ethan Coen's offbeat story concerns an extortion attempt; Frances McDormand plays a pregnant sheriff. (R)

"THE GREAT WHITE HYPE" (Fox, Oct. 1): Peter Berg ("Chicago Hope") plays a boxer lured into a series of grueling fights by a crafty promoter (Samuel L. Jackson). (R)

"MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER 3000: THE MOVIE" (MCA/Universal, Oct. 1): The TV series returns to its movie roots by mocking the sci-fi classic "This Island Earth." (PG-13)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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|-------------------|-----------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Was indebted to | 1 Cassini |
| 5 Intellec | 2 Dwindle |
| 10 Fat | 3 College |
| 14 Delicate | 4 Loft high and |
| 15 Bower of | 5 Barroom |
| 16 Branches | 6 Fresh-water |
| 18 Dies | 7 Wading bird |
| 19 Son of Seth | 8 Because |
| 20 French | 9 Sponge |
| 21 Waterway | 10 Respects |
| 22 Letters | 11 Gracful |
| 23 Unselfish | 12 Banister |
| 24 Fit to eat | 13 Term in |
| 25 Carmel, e.g. | 14 Printing |
| 26 Opening for a | 15 Large |
| 27 Kind of | 16 Crucifix |
| 28 More lussy | 17 Entrance |
| 33 Hurt | 18 Be bright |
| 34 Religious | 19 Hindu class |
| 35 "A man | 20 Inner |
| 36 mouse" | 21 Composition |
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| | 28 Gist |
| | 29 Was |
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| | 31 Routine |

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Don't buy any machinery unless absolutely necessary. It might be — stuff tends to break down when Mercury's retrograde.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Literary endeavors should go well. Expect moments of creative genius. The pace is fast and furious. Debates will be abundant and intense.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Take your time and get it right. The boss has something specific in mind — make sure you know what it is.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). The Muse will visit. Finish up that short story you're writing and send it to the publisher. Don't talk to your friends on company time — you'll miss something important.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Paperwork concerning money dominates your life. Don't fight it. Make time for contemplation. Rest up for a flurry of activity that'll hit soon.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You're up against stiff opposition. Don't worry, love will find a way. Talk to the personnel counselor. You might qualify for a benefit you don't even know about.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's easy to make mistakes, or run into mistakes somebody else has made. Let friends help you through confusion. Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A fascinating conversation leads to an unusual friendship. Don't let an infatuation interfere with the job.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An infatuation with an older person could disrupt your home life. Don't let it get out of hand. You'll see true love — if you're smart enough to recognize it. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Get a technical expert to help you solve a tricky problem. A friend's dilemma requires your attention.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take time to do the research. Read the manual and talk to your friends. In the meantime, a hassle at home demands a solution.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're brilliant. Finish up old projects — don't start new ones. Buy lunch for a friend in repayment of a debt.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Fill out bureaucratic paperwork and get it turned in. Don't worry about money — think of a way to make more.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: You may fall for an intellectual this year. You're also lucky at games you've played before. Work toward your dream.

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Bridge

A Dash of Guile
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 7
♥ K J 9
♦ A J 10 8 3
♣ K J 10

WEST
♠ K 6 5 4
♥ 6 4 3
♦ 9 5 4
♣ Q 5 2

EAST
♠ 3
♥ 10 8 7 5 2
♦ 7 6
♣ A 9 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 8 2
♥ A Q
♦ Q K 2
♣ 7 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2NT Pass
6♠ Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
When skill alone might not be enough, it does no harm, circumstances permitting, to pull the wool over the opponent's eyes. South's sleight-of-hand here paid handsome dividends.

This hand is from a team match. Things had not been going well for North-South, so South barged to six spades in an attempt to recover something from earlier disasters. We recommend either a bid of three

spades, which would be forcing in this sequence, or an invitational jump to four no trump, inviting North to bid a small slam with a maximum two-no-trump response. Both actions would have kept the contract below the slam level. Obviously, a club lead would have left declarer with no play. Indeed, that would have been our choice. Against a small slam, an attacking lead will gain more often than a salvo from three low cards. After a heart lead, it seemed that the contract hinged on the trump finesse, but declarer decided that, given a reprieve, he could engage in some skulduggery at little cost.

The first trick was taken with the ace of hearts, the queen of hearts was overtaken with the king and the jack of hearts was cashed for a diamond discard. Now the nine of spades was run to West's king.

West could not wait to shift to a diamond. Declarer won in hand, drew trumps and claimed the rest of the tricks. While we applaud South's effort, West could have avoided the debacle by simply letting dummy's nine of spades hold the first lead of the suit. On the second round of trumps East would signal by discarding a high club, and the defenders will get the two tricks which were their due.

Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.

PINYP
RYDYL
MOARFT
BITLEG

Answer here: _____

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



WHEN THE SOUP BURNED HIS MOUTH HE WAS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Words of Wisdom

When you borrow money, you sell your freedom.

Those who do not strive to become greater, become smaller.

The weak use circumstances as an excuse for failure; the strong use circumstances as an impetus for success.

Planning keeps us young.

The richest person is the one who owes no one.

Events that invoke the most curiosity are usually things that are no one else's business.

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"Wedding traditions around the world"

UNDER THE patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath.

The participating embassies and the international community in Jordan in cooperation with the Young Muslim Women's Association are organising "Wedding traditions around the world."

It will be held on Wednesday, 9 October at 4.45 pm at the Amra Hotel in aid of YMWA's charitable projects. At JD 20, tickets are available at the Princess Sarvath College (641293/6894821, Mrs Wedad Khalifa (641003) and the Embassy of Pakistan in Amman (638352). ■



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NOLOTOS

Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Le ton monte entre l'Égypte et Israël

La convocation lundi de l'ambassadeur égyptien en Israël par le ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères est intervenue après une série de critiques très vives de l'Égypte à l'encontre de Benjamin Netanyahou (notre photo). Fathi Al-Chazhi, adjoint du ministre égyptien des Affaires étrangères, a averti que les « mises en garde » guerrières d'Israël provoqueraient des réactions similaires chez les Arabes. « Le gouvernement de M. Netanyahou n'est pas conscient des dangers qui résulteraient de l'échec du processus de paix et malheureusement ce gouvernement est capable de saboter les intérêts stratégiques d'Israël, en premier lieu, et de tous les pays de la région », a-t-il ajouté. Parallèlement, M. Mubarak a évoqué le risque d'une nouvelle Intifada dans les territoires palestiniens « cette fois, ne se limitera pas aux jets de pierre » et a qualifié de « bombes à retardement » la construction sans frein d'implantations juives en Cisjordanie et le non-respect des accords avec les Palestiniens. Quelques heures auparavant, un haut responsable égyptien du ministère des Affaires étrangères s'en était personnellement pris au Premier ministre israélien, lui recommandant d'aller voir un psychiatre. Jamais depuis que les deux pays ont signé la paix voilà 17 ans, leurs relations n'avaient pris un tel ton, même lorsque l'État hébreu était dirigé par des chefs de gouvernement de droite.



Reportage

Les Tchétchènes de Jordanie aux côtés de leurs frères

La communauté tchétchène expatriée de Jordanie est la plus importante dans le monde après celle de Turquie. Un de ses représentants, Abdellatif Bino, qui a passé 36 ans au sein de l'armée jordanienne, retrace l'histoire des Tchétchènes de Jordanie et explique les liens qu'ils entretiennent avec cette région du Sud de la Russie enfin en paix après plusieurs années de guerre civile.

SELON

Les résultats du baccalauréat cette année dépassent la simple déception puisqu'un Jordanien sur deux a échoué à cet examen. Un chiffre qui mérite une certaine réflexion. Selon la méthode purement jordanienne, et ce pour des raisons de commodité, on ne cesse de rendre responsables les jeunes vauriens pour ces mauvais résultats sans se donner la peine de fournir des arguments scientifiques valables, et sans proposer bien sûr des solutions adéquates.

Le problème est certes dû à plusieurs facteurs. L'analyse des résultats donne un avantage de plusieurs longueurs aux écoles privées qui restent, hélas, réservées à une catégorie limitée de la population. Pire encore, onze établissements publics n'ont pas eu la chance d'avoir un seul reçu dans leurs rangs.

Il y a donc un malaise au niveau de l'enseignement public et non au niveau de la jeunesse du pays. Et le procès de cet enseignement insuffisant et inadéquat permettra d'innocenter cette jeunesse avide d'apprendre et capable d'exceller.

Personne ne peut nier le fait que les écoles publiques sont présentes dans tous les coins du royaume et que l'enseignement y est gratuit. Mais il n'est pas suffisant de posséder un bon esprit. Il faut savoir l'appliquer.

« Greffe tes poignards, tes petits enfants cueilleront les fruits », disaient les anciens. Peut-on alors reprocher à un enseignant de ne pas s'acharner à relever le niveau intellectuel de ses élèves alors que son statut est si misérable et qu'il manque du minimum de moyens et de respect pour à peine survivre ?

« Donne et tu recevras » : quand un enseignant arrive à la retraite avec 200 dinars par mois, ses après-midi seront, en toute logique, consacrés à « bricoler » pour remplir le ventre de ses enfants plutôt qu'à enrichir le savoir de ses élèves.

Pourtant, à travers le pays, d'excellents éléments du corps enseignant désireux d'accomplir leur devoir ne manquent pas. Mais parmi eux, un bon nombre se fait prendre par le piège inéluctable de notre vie et se fait dévorer par l'inertie, la lassitude et les contraintes financières, devenant des « prophètes vaincus » qui répètent leurs cours les yeux fermés.

Il y a bien sûr aussi parmi ceux qui ont échoué des élèves qui n'ont rien fait pour réussir. D'autres ayant déserté l'école pour donner un coup de main à leurs parents. Hélas, d'autres se transforment en mendiants aux yeux rouges. Mais pour être honnête, la plupart luttent pour réaliser enfin leurs rêves d'enfance et venir s'asseoir sur les bancs des universités. Bien qu'ambitieux, ils paient les frais de l'injustice de notre système éducatif. Et l'échec au premier examen de leur vie est un coup terrible qu'il leur faut longtemps à oublier car le doute est désormais en eux.

Tout le monde ne peut pas habiter Amman et ne peut pas fréquenter les excellentes et très chères écoles privées. Est-ce cependant une raison pour priver la moitié des lycéens, qui sont privés des moyens matériels nécessaires et sont victimes d'un système éducatif partiellement juste et équilibré ?

Souhail Al Sweis

« Nous aimons le général Lebed parce qu'il est un homme sage qui a compris que la guerre n'était pas une solution », confie Abdellatif Bino, major à la retraite de l'armée jordanienne d'origine tchétchène.

« N'ait été mon rang dans l'armée jordanienne, je serais parti me battre aux côtés des indépendantistes », avoue Abdellatif Bino, 66 ans. « Le combat des Tchétchènes est juste. Ils n'ont jamais fait partie de la Russie. Toutes les recherches historiques montrent que les Tchétchènes ont plus de 3000 ans d'histoire alors que les peuples slaves n'en ont que 1400... Plusieurs jeunes Jordanien d'origine tchétchène sont d'ailleurs partis se battre contre les Russes. Sept d'entre eux sont morts au front. »

Si Abdellatif n'a pas pris les armes, il est cependant très actif dans le comité de soutien au peuple de la République tchétchène. Un comité qui se

charge d'envoyer des secours médicaux en Tchétchénie et qui a rassemblé des fonds destinés à aider la reconstruction de ce pays.

C'est au début du 20^{ème} siècle que les Tchétchènes sont arrivés en Jordanie. « D'après ce que nous ont raconté nos pères et nos oncles, c'est pour des raisons religieuses que des membres d'une dizaine de tribus de la région de Najaf (à 140 km de la capitale tchétchène Grozny) ont quitté leur pays pour suivre leurs leaders religieux et se rendre en Terre Sainte. » Une grande partie de la communauté musulmane de Tchétchénie a en effet été obligée de s'expatrier pour fuir les conflits russo-turques et la domination cosaque chrétienne.

Au début du siècle, la ligne de chemin de fer du Hedjaz



Abdellatif Bino, ici en compagnie d'un de ses petits-fils, pense aujourd'hui entamer une carrière politique après avoir servi 36 ans dans l'armée jordanienne

haute de 600 mètres que celle de Zargha. « Ce sont les Tchétchènes qui ont fondé Zargha, Souweïleh, Aqrah et Soukine », déclare l'ex-major. Selon ses estimations, la communauté tchétchène compte aujourd'hui entre 10 et 12.000 personnes en Jordanie.

Une petite minorité dans un pays de plus de quatre millions d'habitants. Mais une minorité choyée par le pouvoir puisqu'avec les Circassiens (appelés aussi Tchérkesses), elle partage un quota de trois sièges au Parlement jordanien. Aujourd'hui, le siège parlementaire réservé aux minorités caucasiennes de Zargha est occupé par un Tchétchène, Abdoul Baqi Jammo. Un projet de loi électorale prévoit même l'attribution d'un quatrième siège pour les communautés

caucasiennes, à Souweïleh. « Cela fera un siège de plus pour les Tchétchènes », affirme Abdellatif Bino. « D'ailleurs, je me présenterai moi-même aux prochaines élections parlementaires sur la circonscription de Souweïleh. »

Une communauté assez fermée

Près d'un siècle après leur arrivée en Jordanie, les Tchétchènes sont restés très attachés à leur culture. En famille, on parle tchétchène et les mariages hors de la communauté restent l'exception.

Leurs liens avec leur pays d'origine restent aussi très forts. « Des que la Jordanie a établi des relations diplomatiques avec l'Union soviétique, en 1964, j'ai demandé un visa pour aller rendre visite à mes

cousins en Tchétchénie », raconte Abdellatif. « A quatre reprises, le visa m'a été refusé. En 1966, je faisais partie de la Garde royale. Parfois, le matin, le roi Hussein venait courir avec nous. Un jour que je courais à ses côtés, je lui ai demandé s'il pouvait m'accorder un entretien. »

Le major lui a alors fait part de son désir d'aller rendre visite à sa famille restée en Tchétchénie. Le roi Hussein a ensuite organisé un entretien à l'ambassade soviétique. Tout était arrangé, mais la guerre des Six Jours est venue contrecarrer les projets d'Abdellatif. Et ce n'est finalement qu'en 1968 qu'il ver-

ra pour la première fois la terre des siens. Un aller-retour de 14.000 kilomètres qu'il effectua avec sa famille en voiture.

En 1980, il devient le premier attaché militaire jordanien nommé à Moscou, ce qui lui permet d'effectuer des visites plus fréquentes en Tchétchénie.

« La Tchétchénie est un pays magnifique », avoue Abdellatif. « J'ai encore de nombreux cousins qui vivent là-bas. J'y ai même une maison et des terres. Pourtant, si j'aime m'y rendre, je ne pourrais jamais y vivre car je suis avant tout jordanien et je me sens plus proche de mes amis arabes que de mes cousins habitant là-bas. »

Claudine Assad

Vingt mois de guerre

Depuis maintenant près d'un mois, la Tchétchénie vit en paix. La guerre qui a frappé cette région du Caucase pendant environ deux ans a fait 60.000 morts au sein de la population depuis l'invasion russe en 1994. C'est en août de décembre 1994 que le président russe Boris Eltsine décidait d'envoyer les troupes russes pour rétablir le calme en Tchétchénie, une région du sud de la Fédération russe qui réclame son indépendance. Celle-ci a été proclamée en octobre 1991 par Djokhar Doudaïev, un ancien général de l'armée soviétique qui avait réussi à rassembler l'ensemble des commandants rebelles. Il avait lui-même fait partie des convois de déportés tchétchènes entassés par Staline dans des camps au Kazakhstan ou en Sibérie à partir de 1944. Pendant quatre et demi, Doudaïev a tenu tête au Kremlin. Mais à la fin du mois d'avril 1996, il est mort dans le bombardement de sa résidence par les services secrets russes qui l'avaient repéré grâce à son téléphone satellitaire.

Cet assassinat devait selon Moscou mettre fin à la résistance tchétchène. Avec moins d'un million d'habitants et quelques milliers de combattants seulement, la Tchétchénie a cependant continué de tenir tête à l'armée russe, refusant toujours de vivre sous la domination de Moscou.

Aujourd'hui le calme est revenu, mais il reste encore précaire. Aux termes de l'accord de paix signé le 31 août dernier, le retrait des troupes russes devait avoir lieu le plus rapidement possible. Mais dès le 9 septembre, une première suspension de ce retrait était annoncée par le commandant en chef des troupes russes en Tchétchénie pour réclamer le règlement de la question de l'échange des prisonniers. Ce retrait n'a finalement repris que le 20 septembre.

L'une des préoccupations du pouvoir actuel en Tchétchénie, à la tête duquel se trouve le président indépendantiste Zelimkhan Landarbiev, est d'éviter tout règlement de compte après le départ des troupes russes. Certains miliciens armés par Moscou ont en effet tué pendant ce conflit contre l'indépendance de la Tchétchénie. Pour obtenir le respect de la discipline dans le pays, Zelimkhan Landarbiev a imposé l'application de la loi coranique dans le pays depuis le 22 septembre. Ce retour à la religion pour faire régner l'ordre illustre bien la place qu'occupe l'islam dans cette région du Caucase. Cette religion a soutenu la lutte continue, ouverte ou secrète menée depuis deux siècles contre les occupants russes, puis soviétiques.



Djokhar Dudaev a été tué par les Russes en avril.

Rencontre

Le français tourné vers l'avenir

Pour Jean Bardet, chef de la délégation parlementaire française qui vient d'effectuer une visite de travail en Jordanie, le français doit réussir à devenir une langue plus attractive dans le royaume hachémite.

Pendant quatre jours, une délégation parlementaire française de quatre députés a effectué une visite de travail en Jordanie pour évaluer la coopération culturelle, scientifique et technique existant entre les deux pays. Emmenée par le député Jean Bardet, cette mission parlementaire qui comprenait Thérèse Aillaud, Michel Dessaint et Pierre Hellier, quatre députés de la majorité, a multiplié les rencontres auprès de responsables jordaniens, notamment au ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur ou du Tourisme.

Le but de ces entretiens était de dresser un état des lieux de la coopération franco-jordanienne. Etant lui-même un des rapporteurs du budget de la francophonie, après de l'Assemblée nationale, Jean Bardet s'est bien sûr particulièrement intéressé à la place qu'occupe la langue française en Jordanie. « Nous avons ressenti en Jordanie une demande de la France et du français », explique Jean Bardet. « Il s'agit désormais d'encourager l'intérêt qui existe pour cette langue. » Un des points que cette mission a eu l'occasion d'aborder au cours de sa visite est la revitalisation du français au baccalauréat jordanien. Pour beaucoup d'élèves jordaniens, cette matière ne présente que peu d'intérêt car en cas de mauvaises résultats lors de l'examen final, elle ne peut que faire baisser la moyenne générale. Il serait donc plus attractif de faire du français une langue optionnelle permettant aux élèves, en cas de bons résultats, d'obtenir des points supplémentaires.

L'image du français doit elle aussi évoluer. « Il ne faut pas reléguer le français à une langue de culture. C'est une langue de travail et d'affaires, ce qui constitue un argument

supplémentaire pour l'apprendre », ajoute Jean Bardet. Dans le secteur du tourisme notamment, ce besoin est de plus en plus important. A son retour en France, cette mission présentera un rapport décrivant notamment l'état de la francophonie en Jordanie, et insistera sur les projets nécessaires à son développement. « La francophonie est un produit d'avenir. On a souvent tendance à réduire son enveloppe quand des coupes budgétaires s'imposent. Mais il faut faire attention car les conséquences néfastes en découlent sont nombreuses. La France doit veiller à être présente partout », explique Jean Bardet.

La visite de cette mission parlementaire française revêtait bien sûr un caractère particulier en raison de la venue annoncée du président Jacques Chirac en Jordanie pour la fin du mois d'octobre. « Ça lui a donné un relief plus important », commente Jean Bardet. Cependant,

cette visite de parlementaires n'avait pas d'objectif politique. Les rencontres qui ont eu lieu avec le président jordanien du sénat ou de l'assemblée nationale ont permis de rétablir des contacts existant entre la France et la Jordanie par le biais d'un groupe parlementaire d'amitié. En France, une quarantaine de parlementaires font partie de cette association présidée par Jean Bardet qui avait eu l'occasion d'accueillir des députés jordaniens à Paris en juin dernier.

Après cette visite jordanienne, la mission française a pris le chemin de l'Égypte où les quatre députés doivent effectuer le même travail. Ils discuteront pour l'Égypte, pays dans lequel la francophonie est bien plus importante, du même nombre de jours que pour la Jordanie. Une preuve supplémentaire, selon Jean Bardet, de l'attachement que porte la France à la Jordanie. ■

Olivier Bras

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Exposition

« Ghada Dahdaleh ». Une jeune peintre d'origine palestinienne, Ghada Dahdaleh, revient exposer en Jordanie après un long séjour au Canada.

A partir du 2 octobre au Centre Culturel français.

Vidéo

« L'affaire Dreyfus » d'Yves Boisset.

Avec C. Brendel, C. Desartre, B.P. Donnadiou.

Le 30 septembre à 20h00 au Centre culturel français.



La netiquette se colle au royaume

Le développement de l'usage d'Internet et de sa messagerie électronique en Jordanie a donné lieu à quelques cafouillages. Pour y remédier, une liste de consignes à respecter, la netiquette, vient d'être communiquée à tous les utilisateurs.

Non, ce n'est pas une coquille. Ce n'est pas non plus une maladie bizarre et certainement pas non plus un nouveau mode d'autocollant pour écolier studieux. La netiquette est tout simplement l'ensemble des règles de bienséance qu'il est recommandé de respecter lorsque l'on utilise l'E-mail, la messagerie électronique, Internet, ou le réseau on-line. Le mot vient de la soudure des mots net (abréviation de network qui signifie réseau) et etiquette, terme utilisé pour désigner parfois le protocole.

Tous les moyens de communication classiques connaissent leurs filous. Lettres anonymes dans le courrier et coup de fil polis sont des exemples illustres de l'usage abusif que quelques uns font

des transmissions postales ou téléphoniques. L'anonymat assure au coupable une protection efficace dans la plupart des cas. Il était donc normal que la messagerie électronique introduite au début de l'année 1995 ait aussi quelques ratés. Il semble cependant que les dégâts soient très minimes et que les responsables du réseau local dans le pays aient décidé de prendre les choses en mains.

C'est que justement, on n'est pas vraiment dans l'anonymat lorsque l'on se connecte sur le réseau Internet. Chaque utiliza-

teur possède son adresse ou boîte postale électronique qui est directement liée à son nom. Même si dans certains cas les autres utilisateurs ne peuvent pas deviner le nom réel de leur interlocuteur, le gérant du réseau, lui, le connaît. En effet, on peut tout à fait s'appeler Hisham Sawalha et prendre Lagardère pour code E-mail. Le vrai nom ne sera connu que du gérant du net et de ceux que Hisham aura bien voulu mettre au courant.

Un ensemble de règles Cela dit, les quelques écarts constatés jusqu'à présent sur le réseau jordanien sont restés bien gentils et ne revêtent aucun caractère de gravité. Par exemple, des adolescents se sont permis d'envoyer des messages à des notables qui figuraient dans le répertoire du net, en adoptant un style très familier, comme s'ils conversaient avec leurs camarades de classe.

Un autre exemple illustrant ce manque de tenue est l'envoi global de messages. En effet, le net est structuré d'un côté en boîtes postales privées et de l'autre en conférences, chacune de ces conférences étant consacrée à un sujet bien précis, s'intitulant par exemple « petites annonces », « gouvernement », « radio et télévision », « une meilleure Jordanie... ».

Lorsqu'un abonné cherche à passer une petite annonce, il est censé envoyer son message vers cette conférence, et uniquement vers celle-ci. Les abonnés qui souhaitent consulter les petites annonces pour-

ront alors la trouver aisément grâce à cette organisation qui paraît somme toute assez logique.

Certains persistent cependant à vouloir poster de façon globale, à tous les abonnés, des messages qui ne concernent qu'un sujet bien défini et qui devraient donc être envoyés uniquement vers une conférence prévue à cet effet. D'où un flot parfois bien désagréable de messages inutiles qu'il faut ouvrir et lire pour se rendre compte qu'ils ne vous concernent absolument pas.

Pire encore, il est souvent arrivé qu'un abonné ayant reçu un message qui lui avait été adressé à titre privé par un autre réponde de façon globale, c'est-à-dire en envoyant sa réponse à tous les membres du réseau. Difficile de savoir si cette erreur était fortuite ou bien volontaire. Des discussions houleuses, parfois savoureuses, ont ainsi été suivies en direct par d'autres utilisateurs.

Les responsables du net en Jordanie ont fini par parvenir à un ensemble de règles de conduite, appelées donc netiquette, à tous les abonnés du réseau.

Cette liste a été envoyée par E-mail posté, bien entendu, de façon globale. Il serait trop long d'énumérer ici ces règles qui sont en fait très simples, respectant les principes élémentaires de la politesse et de la logique.

Il semble que les quelques cafouillages du début aient été bien réduits à présent. C'est la preuve que d'une part, il n'y avait pas vraiment de mauvaises intentions de la part des contrevenants, et que d'autre part, l'énoncé clair des règles de la netiquette, menaces à l'appui, ont nettement contribué à éclaircir la situation. ■

Jean-Claude Elias



THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Changing variables governing the telecommunications infrastructure:

Enter the phone line jammers!

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

IN ENGINEERING, operations research is the field concerned with the best allocation and utilization of limited resources. Engineers, telecommunications specialists among them, probably gain their job satisfaction through observing how their work helps people lead more efficient and streamlined lives. Even though we never think about it, the always available dial tone—well, almost always available—that we get whenever we lift the hand set, is the result of intensive operations research studies. The amount of telephone circuits available is much less than the actual number of telephone users in the country. This is because studies based on average length of calls and peak time demand suggest, to very close accuracy, the optimal number of circuits that would serve the required number of phone numbers.

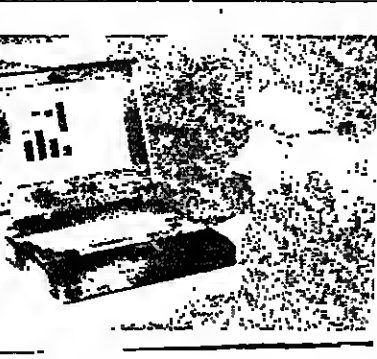
The increasing popularity of the Internet and on-line services dramatically changes the variables that govern traditional forecasting of telephone circuit needs. This stems from one main reason: the average length of any call has spiraled out of control. Whereas the average length of a phone call has been set at around nine minutes, an estimate made by phone companies to incorpo-

rate in the operations research calculations) Internet surfers and an on-line subscribers would spend hours indulging in the addictive world of on-line connections, which will push the average to new records. For a country like Jordan—whose phone call length average is already higher than the interna-

phone calls, and as they make the bulk of their profit from the International phone calls service, should these telecommunications companies bear the cost of upgrades alone or relay it to the on-line and Internet service providers businesses.

In the US for instance, providers of telephone services expect the on-line community to contribute part of the costs associated with accommodating their services, which depend exclusively on phone lines, while the Internet service providers and on-line services answer back with the argument that, phone companies are already making generous profits off phone call fees, which doesn't justify any request for increasing the fees.

On our local scene, the matter is further complicated by the fact that the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is a public firm, and the on-line and Internet companies are private ones, which would have many people wonder whether accommodating the rise of demand on phone circuits boils down to subsidizing the private firms by public money. Of course, with an on-line community of no more than 3,000 users of Global One, NETS or Access (Jordan's three on-line services), these concerns could be premature since the impact on phone circuit capacity is still low. This however, shouldn't prevent the TCC and other con-



ditional standard, and phone circuits already overburdened—the use of the Internet and on-line services could bring about tough growing pains. The strain on the limited number of phone circuits, especially as more people get on-line, could reach a disturbing situation, particularly in the on-line 'savvy' West Amman areas. As phone circuits get reserved for on-line connections, other users will start experiencing the ever annoying lack of the dial tone in their phones.

Ethical questions would arise amidst this new situation. As telecommunications companies have low profit margins or even non-existing ones for local

HP Independent Software Vendors (ISV) meeting in Amman: HP encourages efficient solutions

HEWLETT-PACKARD held an Independent Software Vendors (ISV) meeting at the Forte Grand Amman Hotel, last week, between 18 and 19 September. It was supervised by a number of Hewlett-Packard officials from Europe.

The meeting was attended by fifteen participants from Jordan and fifteen participants from Israel, representing their independent companies, which provide customers with integrated software and hardware solutions.

Solutions that include electronic forms, imaging, general connectivity, Arabization and others may all utilize the distinct features of Hewlett-Packard's product for increased efficiency and customer satisfaction.

"Customers want solutions," said Mr Roland Matise, Area Manager from Hewlett-Packard Switzerland who flew in for the event. "We are in the solutions business, but we are making an effort towards displaying the role of Hewlett-Packard's products as part of different

types of solutions," commented Mr Matise.

He went on to explain that Hewlett-Packard holds such ISV meetings under a club called Jet Caps (the name of recent technology from Hewlett-Packard to improve productivity through printing solutions).

In electronic forms solutions, Hewlett-Packard has introduced an innovative technology by which the forms are stored on the printer, relieving PCs of the burden of transferring too much data upon every print command. Instead, the computer focuses on sending information to the printer, to fill the forms, thereby cutting-down traffic on local area networks (LANs) and speeding up performance.

Officials at Hewlett-Packard hope that the ISV meeting in Amman resembles the starting point for much more cooperation with local and regional software vendors, who have been informed on ways to communicate with Hewlett-Packard regarding any of their

needs.

Mr Pierre Brient, the ISV Account Manager from Hewlett-Packard's European Marketing Center in Germany, said that "Following this meeting, software vendors can keep up to date on developments through joining HP's European Peripheral Developer Association. By doing so, they will receive the latest information we publish in the form of bulletins, that can also be viewed on the Internet. The Internet, in particular, should provide an efficient means of receiving information, minimizing the possibilities of falling behind in developments."

The ISV meeting was jointly organized by Hewlett-Packard and Scientific & Medical Supplies Co. (SMS), the Jordan dealer for Hewlett-Packard.

"This ISV meeting is part of our commitment to the region's market and we are investing more resources in the area," concluded Mr Matise.

GroupWise—a popular choice on campus

IMAGINE MORE than 20,000 potential groupware users spread over a large city using mainframe, minicomputer, LAN-based PC systems and remote set-ups.

Your goal? To enable all of these diverse computer platforms to communicate efficiently together, not only in smaller groups and larger departments, but across the entire organization. This is a problem which several universities are addressing using Novell's GroupWise software.

Georgetown University in Washington DC is one of America's most distinguished universities. In the late 1980s, the growth of networks coupled with the use of electronic mail as a mission critical service, propelled email to the forefront.

Georgetown chose Novell GroupWise because of the product's functionality, availability for multiple clients (DOS, Windows, UNIX and Macintosh) and commitment to support additional platforms. The university implemented a GroupWise test in 1993. Since then, over 30 departments and

over 5,300 users have installed GroupWise. With email users expected to grow to 20,000, Georgetown is confident that the correct decision has been taken. Today, universities running GroupWise also include: Indiana University, University of California, University of Nebraska, University of Alberta (Canada), University of Manitoba (Canada), University of Leiden (Netherlands), University Hospital of Geneva, Oxford University (England) and the West England University.

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News update

QMS introduces latest color-laser printer

QMS has announced the launch of its Magicolor WX, a very competitively priced color laser printer. By providing the Magicolor WX with the ability to directly link up to personal computer servers, QMS is targeting this printer at the work-group market. The Magicolor WX is specifically designed for Windows 95 workgroup users, supporting up to 10 users. It is a 600 dpi printer that incorporates a RISC processor and performs at speeds of 3 to 6 color

pages per minute, and 12 black and white pages per minute.

Sun records growth in the Middle East

Sun Microsystems has recorded a growth of 42 percent in its operational profit for the Middle East, in the fiscal year ending June 1996. This falls in line with the company's performance internationally, recorded a 20% profit growth, with total revenue reaching \$7.095 billion, compared to last year's \$5.902 billion.

Hollandsworth pounds way toward Rookie Award

By Bob Nightengale
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

SAN DIEGO—The neighbors stop by for updates. The phone rings every night with calls from all over the country. The family room is lined with newspapers and magazines, and the computer is hooked up to the Internet.

The satellite dish is spinning. And there's that portable pager that keeps track of the baseball games, updating not only by the inning but by the batter.

The Deer Ridge community in San Ramon hasn't been quite the same since that neighborhood boy stashed playing baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The house on Athens Drive is the only one in the development with a satellite dish, and it may be the only one in the entire San Francisco Bay Area with a wet bar stocked with trophies, plaques, baseballs, bats—everything but alcohol. On the television is a Plexiglas case with two baseballs, one marked "First hit," the other, "First homer."

"I guess you can say life has changed a little bit for us," said Gary Hollandsworth, laughing.

Gary and Susan's oldest child, Todd, happens to be probably the best rookie player in baseball.

Not only has he been instrumental in the Dodgers' drive to the National League West Division title, but he has emerged as the overwhelming favorite to become the fifth consecutive Dodger to win the league's Rookie of the Year award. As the Dodgers open their series with San Francisco Tuesday night, Hollandsworth is batting .301 with 12 home runs, 20 stolen bases, 63 runs and 59 RBI.

"I was just to the computer to pull down stats on all of the other rookies," Gary Hollandsworth said Sunday night. "I would never tell Todd that, but I keep checking on everyone else."

Said Susan Hollandsworth: "We talk about the Rookie of the Year award all of the time. Well, at least all of the time when Todd's not around."

Hollandsworth, who looks like a cover boy from an old Saturday Evening Post, hates talking about the rookie award, although he would love to win it.

He just doesn't like talking about his accomplishments, and his knowledge of the rookie award is definitely limited.

For instance, Hollandsworth had no idea that the voting will be conducted after this weekend, when the regular season ends.

He didn't know that the result will be announced in early November.

He didn't know the winner receives the Jackie Robinson trophy in January at the annual Baseball Writer's Association of America dinner in New York.

"Maybe I'll think about all of that stuff when the season is over," Hollandsworth said. "But not now. We've got a pennant race to worry about. Then, the playoffs. And hopefully, then the World Series."

"Can you imagine if we go to the World Series, win the World Series, and I'm voted the Rookie of the Year award?"

"I might as well step down right then and there. I mean, it can't get any better than that, can it?"

"Come on, this whole thing has been like a dream as it is."

Hollandsworth, 23, sits in the patio of a San Diego restaurant, showing an odd mixture of disbelief and embarrassment.

He's trying to remember how much money he makes as an outfielder for the Dodgers.

"I think it's like \$119, no, \$126,000," he says. "No, that's not right, either. I know it's somewhere in there."

"But you know, when I signed, I didn't even know what I got. I didn't even ask. My agent took care of it for me, and I don't even remember if he told me."

For the record, Hollandsworth makes \$136,000. It is about \$500,000 less than Dodger relief pitcher Rudy Seanez earns, who has not pitched in a major league game this season. It is about \$200,000 less than paid catcher Carlos Hernandez, who was demoted to triple-A Albuquerque and taken off the roster. It is about \$60,000 less than Billy Ashley earns, and Ashley has been relegated to the bench by Hollandsworth.

"I don't worry about that stuff," Hollandsworth said. "I know the Dodgers will take care of me when the time is right. Believe me, that's not even a priority."

Not that Hollandsworth doesn't know the meaning of a buck. He would rather buy his suits during the spring sale at Sears than look for an Armani. He lives in a tiny apartment near Dodger Stadium, not wanting to pay the high rent to live at the beach. He traded in his Blazer on a Corvette, then decided that his Blazer was more practical and sent the Corvette home.

He didn't spend his \$110,000 signing

bonus out of college. Instead investing it into stocks and bonds. He would like to buy a house because he needs the tax break.

"Todd's always been very careful with his money," said his father. "I remember once when he was 13 years old, he came running down the stairs to tell us that he won \$1,000 on a radio show. We said, 'Right, Right.' It turned out to be true. Todd was the fifth caller on this radio show and won \$1,000."

So how did Hollandsworth celebrate? "He bought a \$100 pair of tennis shoes," his father said, "and used the rest to buy stock in UPS. You know, he made a nice profit."

That is what Hollandsworth is about. What you see is what you get.

You can like him or not but he isn't going to change to fit someone's image.

That may be why Hollandsworth is so highly thought of by veterans in the Dodger clubhouse.

"You can't help but like the guy," said first baseman Eric Karros, the first of the Dodgers' four consecutive rookie-of-the-year winners.

There are guys around here that haven't done... and they act like they've been an MVP of the league. But this guy has done something, and he acts like he's done nothing.

"When you think about all of the pressure, and all of the weight he's carrying on his shoulders, he's done more than any of us (previous rookie-of-the-year winners). Nothing was expected of us. We were just happy to be playing."

Hollandsworth has batted .333 with nine home runs and 43 RBI in his last 76 games, so when Manager Bill Russell needed a leadoff hitter six weeks ago, he turned to Hollandsworth. Hollandsworth agreed to give it a try.

Klinsmann's brief return, has lasted ever since. He is batting .341 as the leadoff hitter with 21 runs, five home runs and 17 RBI.

"This guy is special," third baseman Tim Lincecum said. "He reminds me of Larry Walker (of the Colorado Rockies) a lot. And he's going to just get better. The thing I think we all admire in him is that he just wants to win. When you worry about your personal stats, you're going to struggle. If you want to win games, you'll succeed."

"Believe me, this guy is a winner."

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Believe me, this guy is a winner.

Believe me, this guy is a winner.

Believe me, this guy is a winner.

Parma and Bayern, last two UEFA Cup winners, crash out

LONDON—Bayern Munich and Parma, the last two winners of the UEFA Cup, both crashed out of the competition on Tuesday.

Bayern captain Lothar Matthaus added: "We missed the chance early to go 2-0 up early on—not just from Klinsmann's penalty. We had other good opportunities too. In the second half we tried to use too much force, but we lost the tie in Valencia, not here."

Parma, who won the UEFA Cup in 1995, went to Vitoria Guimaraes in Portugal holding a 2-1 lead from the first leg, but lost 2-0 for a 3-2 aggregate defeat.

The Portuguese side won with goals from Vitor Pereira after 15 minutes and Ricardo Lopes, four minutes after the break.

Guimaraes surprised powerful Parma with the force of their counter attack and scored two without reply to win the tie.

Soon after Brazilian striker Gilmar Estevam lost a golden chance to score when Parma goalkeeper Buffon blocked his shot with his legs. International midfielder Pereira lobbed the ball over Buffon's head in the 15th minute.

"If we can't even score from a penalty then how are we expected to win?" said dismayed Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer.

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INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Technology at the service of tourism: 'Jordan Tourist Information' at work

EVERY ONCE in a while, you see some shining examples of technological advancement being used to improve Jordan's image. Multimedia technologies have long been used by many developed countries to showcase their tourism attractions, and it seems that the Jordanian Government has picked up the hint.

An information "multimedia booth", provided by the Ministry of Tourism, is such an excellent example of such technology utilization.

Found in the lobbies of Jordan's leading hotels and at tourist sites, for almost a year now, Jordan Tourist Information has to be credited as a success.

It is housed in a box that resembles an arcade machine—boasts wonderful sampled sounds including a number of well-chosen melodies to go with the different graphics on offer. Speaking of the graphics, there is a huge amount (hundreds of megabytes) of digitized pictures, distributed across the different sections.

Access to information is made easy through touch-screen technology. Normally, touch-screen technology is far from perfect, providing less than satisfactory "sensing". How many times have you approached a touch-screen unit, only to find that you're forced to almost pierce the glass with your finger to get any results.

What makes 'Jordan Tourist Information' unique is that it manages to provide high-sensing capabilities on-screen.

Now, if you think that all that has been stated about this product sounds quite impressive so far, you'll be even more impressed to know that a Jordanian company is behind this project.

The Jordanian company Computer & Communications Systems (CCS), through its London-based office International Communications Systems (ICS), was responsible for putting together the 'Jordan Tourist Information' booth.

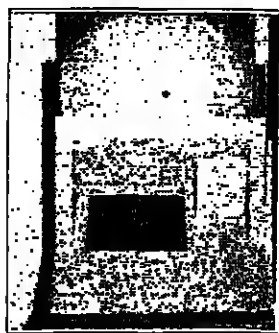
Apart from the technology that the company had to put into the project, there is such a huge content involved that it would take a massive production effort to bring together the speech, sound effects, pictures and text about Jordan. All that in three languages: English, French and Spanish!

CCS has to be commended for its effort, and the Ministry of Tourism must have been pleased to have worked with a Jordan-based company, rather than have to seek foreign expertise.

Upon close examination, you can find out that the booth is basically fitted with a 14 or 15 inch touch-sensitive computer screen, with well-configured speakers fitted into the top part of the booth. Inside, the hardware is basically a computer board with all the required cards and add-ons. Of course, there's a massive hard disk or laser disk inside used for storage. Once you realize that it's basically a standard computer system, with additions, you can't help but think how far smaller computers have come in making all these functions within reach.

If you would like to check out the Jordan Tourist Information booth, pay a visit to the Hotel Intercontinental Jordan, the Philadelphia Hotel or any other major hotels in Amman. It should prove to be an enriching and enjoyable experience.

I'm sure it provides tourists with a sense of pleasure to find all this information at their fingertips. For us, Jordanians, it should provide a sense of pride, through respect for the achievement held within the booth and the honourable idea behind it. Top points go to the Ministry of Tourism, and we hope this only resembles the start.



Klinsmann free to go at end of season, says weekly

BONN—Jurgen Klinsmann has a clause in his contract with Bayern Munich allowing him to leave the club on a free transfer at the end of the season, a German newspaper reported on Sunday.

The *Bild* newspaper weekly said it had learned from "a reliable source" that the German international striker negotiated a change in his contract at the end of last season which would allow him to move without cost at the end of 1996/97.

Klinsmann signed a three-year contract when he joined the 13-times German champions at the beginning of last season. But he has had his troubles at the club, including a major bust-up with captain Lothar Matthaus and indifferent form.

Bayern coach Giovanni Trapattoni substituted him four times in the first six games, although he played the full 90 minutes in the 1-0 win over Karlsruhe on Saturday.

Klinsmann, 30, has been linked with English clubs Blackburn and Everton and the latest revelation sparked interest from other Bundesliga clubs.



Ottmar Hitzfeld, coach of champions Borussia Dortmund, said he would be interested in signing him if the chance arose.

"If he was available he'd be attractive to any club, so why not Dortmund?" Hitzfeld said on Sunday.

Bayern Munich officials were not available for comment.

Portuguese striker Jorge Cadete, after only 13 minutes when he was carried off following a vicious foul by Hamburg defender Stephane Henchoz.

Celtic manager Tommy Burns had a furious on-the-pitch argument with the referee as the teams headed towards the dressing-room at half-time. Goals from Karsten Baron (24th) and Andre Breitenreiter (50th) sealed the Germans victory.

Sweden, whose part-timers have consistently embarrassed England's highly-paid stars in recent seasons, did so again with Helsingborgs, most of whose players earn 300 pounds a week, knocking out Aston Villa, whose players earn about 20 times more.

Helsingborgs, who scraped a 1-1 draw in England two weeks ago, prevented Villa from scoring and with the match ending 0-0 Helsingborgs won on the away goals rule.

Newcastle, fielding the world's most expensive player in the form of 15 million pounds (\$23.36 million) striker Alan Shearer, also lost in Sweden, going down 2-1 to part-timers Halmstad but went through 5-2 on aggregate.

Despite advancing, Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan blasted his highly-paid team afterwards.

"We just didn't perform. We were average, right throughout the side. From front to back and back to front, nobody played well. We didn't deserve to win and the better team did win. They were the team that wanted it more and showed more enthusiasm." Just 300 fans watched Portuguese club Boavista reach the second round on the away goals rule at Benfica's 120,000-capacity stadium.

Boavista used Benfica's ground for their home leg against Denmark's Odense after being banned by UEFA from playing at their own ground in Oporto.

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